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28 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD281402 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Syrian Search For Schray—Syrian patrols searching for kidnapped FRG national Ralph Schray "stormed" Hizballah hideouts in West Beirut 28 January, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The Syrian command in West Beirut had earlier conveyed an ultimatum to Hizballah and to a visiting Iranian delegation demanding Schray's release within 48 hours, the radio said. Despite an earlier DPA report that Schray had already been moved to the southern suburb, Voice of Lebanon stated that he is still in West Beirut because Syrian measures have prevented the kidnappers from transporting him to the suburb. Earlier, Voice of Lebanon cited information that the order to kidnap Schray was given by Hizballah official 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, who is seeking to exert pressure on the FRG to release his two brothers. Hamadah is currently in Iran with 'Imad Mughniyah, another Hizballah activist, the radio reported.

The issue of FRG hostages in Lebanon was among the topics discussed during a meeting at Frankfurt Airport between FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, DPA noted. Velayati reportedly promised that Iran will do everything it can to help secure the hostages' release. Meanwhile, the Iranian charge d'affaires in London "hinted" that Iran may use its influence to help secure the release of British hostages in Lebanon if the Archbishop of Canterbury makes an effort to obtain the release of Iranians kidnapped near Beirut several years ago, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported.

Police Posts in Camps—The Internal Security Forces began operating two posts in Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila 28 January, Beirut radio reported. A statement by the interior minister emphasized that the establishment of police posts in the refugee camps is a Lebanese decision affecting Lebanese territory, the radio added.

Israel

Occupied Territories—Jerusalem radio cited an IDF announcement that soldiers who beat up a camera crew working for CBS television in the Gaza Strip have been identified and will be "severely punished." The two-man crew, both of whom were Israelis, were beaten and their equipment smashed after they filmed troops hitting a Palestinian youth. On the situation in the West Bank, the radio reported that "terrorist organizations" have been seeking to disrupt the flow of workers into Israel by burning buses, noting that another bus was set on fire by unidentified people near Tulkarm 28 January. IDF radio disclosed that 1,753 inhabitants of the territories have been arrested since the riots started in December: 577 of them have received jail sentences while 129 are under "administrative arrest."

PLO View—If Israel continues its "escalation of brutal practices" against the Palestinians, the PLO may reconsider its policy of urging Palestinian demonstrators not to use firearms, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat indicated during a Tunis press conference reported by APS. He claimed that Israeli helicopters have dropped U.S.-made "gas bombs" which killed six Palestinians and caused 27 Palestinian women to suffer miscarriages in the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, 'Arafat said he "appreciates" recent U.S. stances at the UN Security Council, describing the U.S. position as "an important step forward."

Iraq

War Reportage—The "very large" maritime target that was the subject of a 27 January Iraqi air attack has been identified as a Cypriot-flagged supertanker used by Iran to shuttle crude oil from Khark Island, Baghdad radio announced, citing shipping sources.

On the northern front, Iraqi troops killed 221 Iranians and destroyed 25 ammunition dumps, a military spokesman told INA.

Criticism of Syria—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim referred to the Syrian regime's "treasonous stands" against the Arab nation in remarks to magazine editors reported by Voice of the Masses radio. The minister stated that the regime's "suspect alliance" with Iran is a "planned plot" serving the interests of those harboring ill will toward the Arab nation, and he added that its stands "violate" the Amman summit resolutions.

Iran

In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati declared that Iran has decided to make the last year of the Reagan presidency "the most bitter and unsuccessful period" in his political career.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordanian-PLO Talks—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i opened talks with a visiting PLO delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, Amman television reported.

Egyptian-PDRY Relations—The PDRY will "soon" restore diplomatic relations with Egypt, MENA reported, citing the UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, adding that an announcement to this effect is expected in February.

Sudanese-Libyan Contacts—A Sudanese military delegation held talks in Tripoli earlier this week with Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of

the Libyan Armed Forces, SUNA reported. The Sudanese ambassador in Tripoli described the talks as "successful" and disclosed that Libya provided Sudan with military assistance during the occupation of Kurmuk by SPLA rebels.

Following the Tripoli talks, General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, received a visiting Libyan military delegation in Khartoum 27 January, Omdurman radio reported.

Afghanistan

Qandahar Fighting—Rebel forces have broken the siege by Afghan troops near Qandahar, where some 1,500 mujahidin were beseiged, Islamabad radio reported, adding that six military posts were also "destroyed".

Iranian Role "Welcome"—At a press conference in Tehran reported by IRNA, the Soviet ambassador to Iran indicated Soviet support for an Iranian role in the Geneva talks. The ambassador stressed that "if Iran takes part" in the talks and "uses its influence for settlement" of the issue, "we would welcome the measure."

Also in Tehran, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman described the realization of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan as "a positive development toward eliminating the region's problems," Tehran radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Views Mubarak Gaza 'Truce' Proposal

LD271230 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1150 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Tunis, 27 Jan (TAP)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has announced that 25 Palestinian women suffered miscarriages the day before yesterday as a result of beatings and the poisonous gases used by the Zionist occupation forces in attacking the Palestinian camps in Gaza. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the PLO Executive Committee was asked his opinion of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's recent proposals published in THE WASHINGTON POST, which call on "both the Palestinians and the Israelis to apply a truce for 6 months aimed at dealing with the situation in the occupied territories."

He replied that he had asked the Egyptian Government to officially supply him with these proposals, because he would rather deal with official versions.

In concluding his press conference, 'Arafat welcomed the reports carried by some international media that the municipality of Rome has expressed its wish to host the proposed international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Soviet Weekly Interviews PLO's 'Arafat

PM270921 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 88 p 14

["Topical interview" with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Baghdad by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent Konstantin Kapitonov and APN correspondent Yevgeniy Mikitenko: "'Actions Will Continue Until the Occupation Ends'"; date not given]

[Text] Baghdad—The assignment from the editorial office was succinctly stated: Do a piece on recent events in the Arab territories seized by Israel. I and my APN colleague knew that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was in Baghdad. Abu 'Ammar, as the Palestinians call their leader, would undoubtedly have some new and authentic information on the actions by the inhabitants of the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip, which are now into their 2d month.

We called the PLO mission in Baghdad and were told that Abu 'Ammar was very busy but would find the time for Soviet correspondents. A few hours later they gave us an address, first making a note of our names and surnames, the number of our car, and its color and make.

Yasir 'Arafat received us in his small, sparsely furnished office. He was wearing a dark green military uniform with a wide belt. On his head he wore a winter cap bearing the PLO emblem. Dark circles under his eyes bespoke the burden that this man of short stature has to carry on his shoulders.

"First of all," Yasir 'Arafat said, sitting down in his chair, "I want through your paper to thank the Soviet people for their constant support and solidarity with our struggle. There is no justification for the Israeli rulers' racist, reactionary policy toward our women and children and people as a whole. We Palestinians greatly value your friendship."

Tea was brought in and Yasir 'Arafat poured it into cups and handed them to us. Then he took off his cap, baring his head, and said: "I am prepared to answer any question...."

"Where did you get information on events in the occupied territories?"

He gave a nod in the direction of the telephone and explained: "Every hour, and sometimes more frequently, I get a call from Gaza and from the West Bank. Our people provide full information on what is happening. Contacts are conducted via Europe...."

"Can you tell us about recent events?"

"I want to remind you," Yasir 'Arafat replied, "that actions by inhabitants of the occupied territories are a constant factor. They keep on dying down and then flaring up again with renewed force. The latest actions began on 7 December last year in the Gaza Strip. On that day an Israeli patrol had opened fire on two cars with Palestinians inside. As a result four people were killed and nine were wounded. The occupying authorities were quick to state that it was an ordinary traffic accident. But the administration of the Sarafand Hospital, where the injured were taken, refuted this lie, saying that the victims had received bullet wounds. On hearing this, young Palestinians went out into the streets, protesting the Israeli authorities' tyranny and violence. Actions took place throughout the Gaza Strip and then spilled over into the West Bank. We are confident they will continue until the Israeli occupation ends."

"What civilian casualties have there been?"

Yasir 'Arafat opened the top drawer of the desk and took out a file. "Here are the lists of casualties. So far 80 people have been killed, mainly women and children. Some 700 have been injured. But I am sure that there are considerably more. People are afraid to call the hospital because the Israelis take them straight from the ward and throw them in jail. According to recent figures, more than 7,000 people have been arrested."

He handed us the lists of the dead. We looked through them. But we looked not so much at the names as at the ages. The oldest was 75. The youngest was 15 days...

The telephone rang in a shrill tone. "Hello," Yasir 'Arafat said on picking up the handset. "Who is this?" He became animated and almost shouted down the phone: "How are you, Muhsin?" There was a pause.

"Thanks for your efforts... May Allah help you..." He put his hand over the mouthpiece and said: "It's from Gaza..." Then he took some clean sheets of paper and started to take notes, repeating them aloud:

"Fierce clashes are continuing... The army is firing on demonstrators... It is supported by helicopters... What?.. Helicopters are dropping tear gas bombs... Another demonstrator has been killed? What name?.. Mahmud 'Ali 'Awdah, 45... Some people have been badly wounded... In refugee camps?.."

He was silent for a while, listening to Muhsin, then he started to read aloud:

"Some 23 camps blockaded... Fifth day without water and electricity... People going hungry... Five hospitals in the camps completely destroyed... No medicine... Women have staged a demonstration..."

He fell silent again and started writing something down at speed. When he had finished, he spoke into the handset:

"Thanks again, Muhsin. Take care of yourself. I'll wait for news." Then he turned to us: "The Israeli authorities are using the regular army to put down the actions. Four divisions, security forces, and border troops. The army sub-units are supported by 150 helicopters which, as you heard, are dropping tear gas bombs and nerve gas bombs. Incidentally, there was an unexploded bomb in Gaza with 'Made in the USA 1988' on it."

He thought for a moment and then explained:

"You know where the bombs came from? Defense Minister Rabin reached agreement on the supplies during his U.S. visit last December. As you can see, the Americans have been prompt. Rabin has said that with these bombs he will get even with the Palestinians in 2-3 days..."

The telephone rang again. Having talked, Yasir 'Arafat told us:

"It was from the West Bank... As in Gaza, fierce clashes are continuing there. There are Palestinian flags and slogans everywhere: 'No occupation!' 'Yes to the PLO!' The commander of the paratroopers has just received an order from the Israeli authorities to use any method to 'break the Palestinians' back'."

[Correspondents] What effect are the actions by the inhabitants of the occupied territories having on the political situation in Israel?

['Arafat] We have accurate information that 28 officers and 161 men of the regular Israeli army have refused to participate in putting down the uprising. Israeli peace-loving and democratic forces have held several demonstrations as a mark of solidarity with our struggle. There are increasing differences of opinion among the Israeli leadership and there are more and more calls for dialogue with the PLO.

[Correspondents] Will the recent events contribute to the convening of an international conference on the Near East?

['Arafat] Certainly! Because such a conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all interested parties, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is the mechanism capable of solving the Near East crisis and, therefore, of restoring the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

As we were leaving Yasir 'Arafat's office the telephone rang again.

Al-Wazir on Goals of Palestinian 'Uprising'

NC271517 Paris AFP in English 1502 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan 27 (AFP)—A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in an interview here Wednesday that the goals of the anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied territories were identical to those of the PLO. Khalil al-Wazir, whose nom de guerre is Abu Jihad, described the Palestinian protests as the fruit of a "long struggle... inside and outside Palestine," the pro-leftist AL-SAFIR newspaper reported.

Mr. Wazir said the identities of the demonstrators and the nature of the communiques published inside Israel on the unrest proved that trade unions, youth, women and student organisations were in control of the situation.

The demonstrations that erupted December 9 were the "most violent, the most widespread and the most influential Palestinian uprising" since the creation of Israel in 1948, he told the paper.

The senior PLO official said the protest was endorsed by the Palestine National Council, a Palestinian parliament in exile, which called for an end to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a memorandum issued January 14.

The memorandum also urged a recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination, the creation of an independent Palestinian state and the convocation of an international peace conference on the Middle East with PLO participation, Mr. Wazir added.

Palestinians Reject Government-in-Exile Idea

NC271027 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
25 Jan 88 pp 22-25

[Statements made by Palestinian officials in answer to following question posed by AL-SHIRA': Talk is currently under way in the Palestinian arena on a government-in-exile. What is your opinion on this subject under the current circumstances, particularly since this talk coincides with the uprising in the occupied territories?]

[Excerpt] 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Executive Committee member:

First, we must differentiate between a government-in-exile and a provisional government. The former is usually formed immediately upon the occupation of a land by another state. The government of the state whose land has been occupied will form a government-in-exile to ensure sovereignty over its land.

In our case, when our people are still waging their battle for the sake of their freedom, independence, and a return to their national soil, a government-in-exile is out of the question. Also, the formation and establishment of a provisional government usually takes place shortly before the final victory. Certain objective internal, regional, and international conditions should be present to make the formation of such a government a new militant step on the road to achieving victory.

Therefore, the idea of establishing a Palestinian provisional government at this particular stage and under these particular circumstances is something odd because the conditions for it are not right. The efforts should rather be focused at this stage on achieving national unity on the basis of a commitment to the objectives of the Palestinian and pan-Arab struggle and on marshaling all the available potential of the Palestinians, Arabs, and sympathizers for the sake of liberating the homeland from occupation and for the sake of supporting our people's struggle inside and outside the occupied homeland. This would enable us to safeguard the accomplishments that the national and pan-Arab struggle has scored during our bitter struggle against the Zionist enemy.

There is one basic condition that should exist: the liberated land. Any provisional government without a liberated land would only impede the national struggle march from attaining its objectives for a return, for self-determination, and for building the national independent state on its national soil.

We are facing a vicious imperialist-Zionist onslaught at this stage in our people's history, an onslaught which aims to circumvent the gains of our people and nation and liquidate our inalienable national rights. Therefore, sound judgment dictates that all efforts should be pooled to confront and crush this onslaught on all levels.

At this stage, when our people are waging the most difficult and courageous battle inside the occupied Arab territories for the sake of freedom and self-determination on their national soil, rejecting occupation and reiterating the priority of the Arab-Zionist struggle and its core, the Palestinian problem, we maintain that it is inadmissible to disregard the heroic struggle. We must direct all our efforts in support of our people's struggle until it attains all its objectives.

All the Palestinian patriots are called upon to unify and step up their struggle; they are called upon to ignore anything that will undermine the unity and rights of the people and the unity of the cause. The criterion for any step will either be positive or negative, depending on its commitment to this unity and to the objectives of the national Palestinian consensus without any showmanship or relinquishment.

Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha, Abu Musa, secretary general of Fatah Provisional Command:

The proposal for a government-in-exile is an old one that has been raised anew. I think the PLO Command's current approach will sooner or later adopt that treasonous line. A follower of the political development of that approach, as represented in political statements or alliances with reaction, will eventually arrive at the same conclusion: the approach is increasingly being integrated in the U.S. plans, which are hostile to our national cause, the Palestinian cause. To gain America's acceptance, this command must embark upon a step to prove it is qualified to be one of the components of the submissive Arab reality.

As a national institution, the PLO's political action is based on the Palestinian national charter and on the political plans which do not contradict this charter. Thus, the charter constitutes an obstacle to this rightist and deviationist command, which eventually will seek ways to get rid of this charter and these plans. This explains why this old notion of formulating a new political framework, with a new political program, to act as an alternative to the PLO, is now being raised.

The idea of establishing a government-in-exile necessarily means drawing up a new political program to abandon the national charter which governs the PLO. If the goal of the establishment, or the announcement of the establishment of a government-in-exile, is to abandon the charter which constitutes the foundation of the PLO's national policy, we can then understand the danger involved in such an announcement or step. It means abandoning the PLO and its national charter. If

such a step is taken, it will involve a ministerial program which agrees with the stances of certain regimes. We will, therefore, stand up to, confront, and resist such a step with every available method of struggle.

I expect this deviationist approach to launch an extensive campaign to mislead our Arab and Palestinian masses by presenting this step in a favorable light. For example, they may call such a government "the revolutionary government," or the like, to mislead our masses and to cover up the treason which they had committed when they abandoned the objectives and principles for which the revolution had been launched. It is not odd that this issue is being raised at a time when the popular revolution is blazing in occupied Palestine, from north to south and from the river to the ocean. The Palestinian people, who remained on the land despite the occupation in 1948, form an integral part of the present popular revolution in occupied Palestine.

The revolution will not be limited to the West Bank and Gaza, as some try to present it, nor to the whole of Palestine. The slogans raised by this raging revolution stress that Palestine is Arab and that there will be no submissive solutions. We, therefore, say that whoever tries to rob these masses of their sacrifices will harvest only failure. We think the issue under consideration is a step toward liquidating the Palestinian cause and not in its interest as they claim.

The timing of the proposal to form a Palestinian government-in-exile was agreed upon to deal a blow to this revolution and to give it a false and nonexistent hope. In other words, they meant to deal a blow to the spirit of giving and sacrifice prevailing among those rebellious masses and to coax them into accepting the subsequent submissive steps. I am fully confident that our people's political awareness, their ability to uncover this wicked scheme, and their continued confrontation of the occupation will abort these deviationist proposals.

In conclusion, we think that this is a clear-cut treasonous step and we will fight it with every available method.

Fadl Shururu, PFLP-GC secretary and Information Department official:

This issue was first raised by King Hassan II when he presented the views he had exchanged with Al-Sadat, who was trying to convince the Palestinian leadership to surrender with him. King Hassan II raised this issue in a direct way on the eve of the Palestinians' departure from Beirut in late 1982. He tried to persuade the PNC speaker and some PLO Executive Committee members to accept the idea.

While PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum was on his way to open the PNC's 16th session, which was held in Algiers after the siege, King Hassan II discussed the matter with him and outlined his idea on forming a government-in-exile in a tactical way, disregarding the PNC Charter. According to his proposal, the government-in-exile would issue a ministerial statement, committing itself to its implementation. This statement would govern its movement, contacts, and handling of efforts to achieve a political settlement.

However, Khalid al-Fahum rejected the idea and pointed out its danger and futility, especially in terms of its timing and concept. Al-Fahum is regarded as a trustee of the Palestinian charter.

In the view of the PFLP-GC, the presentation of this idea in the wake of the Qibyah martyrs' operation and the overwhelming, popular uprising in Palestine is part of an attempt to circumvent the goals of the Qibyah martyrs' operation and our kinfolk's uprising in Palestine. The idea of a government-in-exile is also meant to be used for negotiating exceptional solutions and for encroaching on the Palestinian national charter.

Revolutions very often resort to creating government-in-exile only when favorable conditions prevail. The most important of these conditions are: the existence of genuine unity within the revolution; the accomplishment of objectives on the road to liberation, a political program committed to inalienable rights; and a general support for this program by friendly and fraternal countries.

As far as we are concerned, Palestinian national unity has not yet materialized. The deviants leading the PLO are still aligning their policy with the Camp David agreements, which are mediating for surrender. Those who thought they had achieved national unity at the Algiers conference have realized that the Palestinian rightists were the only ones who had benefited from that meeting.

We think the courageous uprising by our people in the occupied territory has compelled the advocates of a government-in-exile to quickly withdraw their proposal. However, this does not mean they have retreated completely. We assume 'Arafat is now trying to determine whether Western countries accept Al-Sadat's and King Hasan II's idea regarding a government-in-exile. Yet, we still believe that our people will be able to thwart any scheme that exceeds our national charter and allows others to use the uprising as terms for surrender. [passage omitted]

Sinyurah, Abu Rahmah Submit Memo to Shultz
JN280929 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
28 Jan 88 pp 1, 20

[By Lamis Andoni]

[Text] Tunis—AL-RA'Y has learned that AL-FAJR Chief Editor Hanna Sinyurah and Gaza lawyer Fayiz Abu Rahmah have submitted a 14-point memo to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The demands in this memo are similar to those raised by the Palestinian popular uprising. The memo says that the uprising has

come as an expression of our people's commitment to our pan-Arab ambitions, including our strong hopes that the Palestinian people will be able to exercise their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on our national land under the leadership of the PLO, our sole, legitimate representative.

The uprising, the memo adds, is an expression of our living spirit and rejection of the despair that has begun to penetrate the minds of some people who say this uprising is an expression of public despair. According to the memo, the important lesson we must learn from the uprising is that the occupation is not natural and cannot continue forever.

The memo warns that failure to respond to the legitimate rights and demands of the Palestinian people will further aggravate the situation and lead to more violence and bloodshed.

The memo demands the application of the Geneva Convention on international protection for Palestinian civilians under occupation, immediate implementation of Security Council Resolutions 695 and 697, repudiation of the policy of deportation, the lifting of the siege on Palestinian camps in the West Bank and Gaza, the cessation of the building of settlements, and the removal of the ban on contacts between Palestinians and the PLO.

The following are the 14 demands in the memo, which was signed by Palestinian national figures and institutions in the West Bank and Gaza:

1. Abidance by provisions of the Geneva Conventions and all other international pacts pertaining to the protection of civilians and their properties under military occupation; the cancellation of emergency regulations of the British Mandate; and the termination of the application of the iron-fist policy.

2. Immediate compliance with Security Council Resolutions 605 and 607 which call on Israel to abide by the Geneva Conventions and the Declaration of Human Rights calling for a just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

3. The release of all prisoners arrested during the recent uprising, foremost among them our children, and the rescinding of all proceedings and indictments against them.

4. The cancellation of the policy of deportation and allowing all those exiled, including the four Palestinians who were recently deported to Lebanon, to return.

5. The immediate lifting of the siege on Palestinian camps in the West Bank and Gaza and the withdrawal of the Israeli army from civilian areas.

6. The carrying out of an inquiry into the behavior of Israeli soldiers and settlers, as well as into measures taken inside jails and detention camps, and the taking of due punitive measures against those who have caused bodily harm to Palestinians.

7. The immediate cessation of settlement activity and the return of all confiscated lands.

8. The release of all funds that have been seized, especially the wages of Arab workers employed within the green line.

9. The cessation of any action affecting Islamic and Christian holy places, especially activities aimed at carrying out changes in these holy places.

10. The cancellation of all taxes imposed on the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank and Gaza.

11. The cancellation of all measures that restrict public and political liberties, including the freedom of holding meetings and forming unions.

12. The cancellation of all measures hampering reconstruction, including Israeli restrictions on industrial projects and the drilling of artesian wells.

13. The cancellation of the policy that discriminates between green line and West Bank products.

14. The cancellation of the ban on contacts between Palestinians and the PLO so that Palestinians can take part in the work of national councils.

Algeria

More on Banking, Customs Agreement With Libya

LD271105 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Algiers, 27 Jan (APS)—Finance Minister Abdelaziz Khellef and Muhammad al-Madani al-Bukhari, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Treasury of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, signed the minutes of an Algerian-Libyan cooperation agreement yesterday afternoon at the Jinan al-Mithaq villa.

The document relates to three spheres of cooperation, including banking and customs duties. Regarding cooperation in banking, the two sides specified a number of distinct activities, including a project to set up a joint Algerian-Libyan bank to finance joint investment projects, external trade between the two countries, and their relations abroad.

The document refers to the bolstering of relations between the Algerian and Libyan central banks and their commercial banks.

In the taxation field, the two sides demonstrated a joint will to reach an agreement to avoid duplication of customs duties.

In customs cooperation, the document refers to the establishment of customs posts on the border between the two countries, facilitating customs formalities and, finally, combating the avoidance of customs duties. The two sides agreed to exchange experts, information, and studies in the field of customs.

It is worth noting that an Algerian delegation of three working groups in the fields of banking, taxation, and customs will leave at the end of March for Tripoli to commence the implementation of the specified program.

Abdelaziz Khellef and Muhammad al-Madani al-Bukhari stressed the two sides' readiness to consolidate relations between the two countries and to pay great attention to cooperation in taxation, banking, and customs in view of their importance as a fundamental basis in the framework for intensifying cooperation between the two countries.

President Receives Message From King Fahd

LD271418 Algiers APS in English 1335 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Algiers, 27/1/88 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid received Wednesday the ambassador of the Saudi Kingdom to Algeria, Muhammad Hasan al-Faqi, who handed him a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Bendjedid Receives Message From Burkina Faso

LD271110 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Algiers, 27/1/88 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid audienced yesterday here Yarba Diallo, counsellor of the Burkinabe head of state, Blaise Compaore. During this audience, the special envoy delivered a message to the head of state from the Burkinabe president.

Messaadia Reports on Trip to Tunisia

LD272151 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, received at presidency headquarters this afternoon Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Political Bureau member and head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, following his return from Tunisia. Mr Messaadia briefed him on the results of his mission in Tunisia, where he had conveyed a message from the president of the Republic to President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali.

Chad

Further Reportage on Sahel Summit in Ndjamena

Heads of State Arrive

AB271926 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The eighth summit of the heads of state of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel begins in Ndjamena tomorrow. Five heads of state, one prime minister, and a vice president have arrived in our capital for this meeting. They are Presidents Abdou Diouf of Senegal; Moussa Traore of Mali; Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde; Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau; Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso; Bakary Darbo, vice president of Gambia; and Hamid Algabid, prime minister of Niger. [passage omitted]

Sahel Club Meeting Ends

AB272125 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The seventh meeting of the Sahel Club being held in the Consular Chamber in Ndjamena ended this morning. For 24 hours the participants, under the chairmanship of our minister of planning and cooperation, Mahamat Soumaila, examined the vital problems facing the Sahel and (?ways of ensuring) a better future for it. At the end of the meeting recommendations and suggestions were made which contributed to the current examination of the dramatic situation facing the Sahel. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid on U.S. Reaction to 'Initiative'

NC280700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0603 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Washington, 28 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the Americans expressed understanding and appreciation for the Egyptian initiative on peace in the Middle East. They also understood and appreciated the way President Husni Mubarak outlined the proposals included in this initiative during his meeting with U.S. officials on Wednesday, 'Abd al-Majid said.

In a statement today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid asserted that President Mubarak's initiative made a positive impression on U.S. officials, because its basic aim is the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

The Egyptian foreign minister pointed out that the five-point initiative is indivisible. He noted that the core of this initiative is the convening of an international conference to be attended by all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, in a bid to reach a permanent and just solution to this dispute. He added that Egypt is fully cognizant of the fact that the long-standing Israeli occupation of the Arab territories has neither undermined the will of the Palestinian people living in these areas nor thwarted their determination to regain their rights. Evidence of this is provided by the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, he said.

Concluding his statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed Egypt's determination to continue its political efforts for a resolution of the Palestinian issue, despite the negative stands shown by some governments. World public opinion will, in the end, force these governments to change their positions and support the Palestinian cause.

Badawi Adresses UN Security Council 27 Jan

NC280603 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt condemns Israeli repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories and holds Israel fully responsible for the deteriorating situation in these areas. Egypt warns of the serious consequences that could result from Israel's continuation of these suppressive measures, which will only impede the peace process in the region. Egypt stresses the importance of President Mubarak's recent initiative as a prelude for starting fruitful negotiations.

These remarks came in a speech delivered by Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, at a meeting of the UN Security Council last night. The Council was debating a report by the UN secretary general on the situation in the occupied territories.

The Security Council is schedculed to hold a third session today to continue discussion on the situation in the occupied Arab areas.

OAU Secretary General Concludes Visit 28 Jan

NC280817 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou left Cairo for Libreville this morning, following a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he attended the OAU jubilee celebrations. The celebrations were organized by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Institute and were inaugurated by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, who read out President Mubarak's message on this occasion. [passage omitted]

Tunisia's Baccouche Makes Stopover on Way Home

NC271253 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche made a stopover at Cairo Airport this afternoon on his home from Iraq after a tour which included eight Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Baccouche was received at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. Dr Sidqi and Baccouche held talks in Cairo Airport in the presence of Dr Ghali, during which the Tunisian prime minister expressed pleasure at the resumption of relations between Egypt and Tunisia. [passage omitted]

UAE Paper Cited on Restoration of PDRY Ties

NC280735 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Jan (MENA)—Arab diplomatic sources in London have stated that the PDRY will restore diplomatic relations with Egypt soon. An announcement to this effect is expected to be made in February.

The same sources told the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD paper today that consultations took place recently between Cairo and Aden to complete the procedures for reopening Egypt's embassy in Aden and the PDRY's embassy in Cairo. The resumption of flights between the two countries was also discussed.

Mustafa Departs for World Economic Seminar

NC280659 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Yusri Mustafa, and Dr Muhyi al-Din al-Gharib, deputy chairman of the Investments and Free Zones Authority, left Cairo for Geneva this morning to pay a 1-week visit to Switzerland. They were invited by the board of the businessmen's world seminar.

In a predeparture statement, the economy minister said that during this visit he will participate in the world economic seminar to be held in Davos, Switzerland, which will discuss the world's current economic situation, the problems confronting the economy, and the proposed solutions. [passage omitted]

Soviet Official Reviews Economic Cooperation

NC271707 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Vladislav Yachev, economic counselor at the Soviet Embassy in Cairo, has stressed his country's willingness to expand the base of economic cooperation with Egypt, particularly in the industrial and agricultural fields.

Speaking at a news conference today to mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the first economic cooperation agreement between Egypt and the Soviet Union, Yachev said that he and Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of international cooperation, had agreed that the Soviet delegation's talks in Cairo would focus on participation in tangible projects, particularly in the fields of industry, agriculture, irrigation, electricity, and land reclamation. He added that the delegation will arrive here in mid-February. It will also discuss the principal outlines of a bilateral economic cooperation agreement and the setting up of an Egyptian-Soviet committee to prepare joint projects, agreements, and treaties [as received], and to follow them up.

The Soviet Embassy's economic counselor added that the soon-to-be-signed cooperation agreement will include the basic principles of the two countries' economic cooperation. Also included will be the development of cooperation in the industrial, agricultural, and irrigation fields and other projects such as power stations that run on coal and fuel. He noted that one of the important trends between the two countries in the economic sector is the training of professionals, either in Soviet training centers or in the 45 Egyptian centers which the USSR helped to build.

Yachev added that since the beginning of 1987 there have been many contacts, consultations, and exchanges between Soviet and Egyptian delegations. He noted that the chairmen of a number of Soviet and Egyptian companies had exchanged visits during that period. He also said that the volume of contracts concluded for economic cooperation in 1987 amounted to $137 million. He stressed that with their ongoing cooperation since 1987 the two countries have gone beyond the first stage of the joint economic cooperation agreement.

Responding to a question about his country's role in the measures Egypt has taken to confront water level reduction in the High Dam Lake and the Nile River, Yachev said that the two countries are consulting to build power stations operating on gas and coal. In addition, he added, Egypt and the USSR are taking part in studies to reduce power consumption and increase the productivity level of the aluminum plant in Naj' Hammadi. He noted that over the past 30 years, in addition to its contribution in the building of the High Dam which was completed in 1971, the Soviet Union had helped to establish around 100 projects in the fields of agriculture, industry, and energy, as well as the production of aluminum, rolled iron, coke, iron, steel, oils, and paints,.

Concluding his news conference, the Soviet official said that Egypt's adoption of the Second 5-Year Plan for economic and social development for 1986-92, the start of its implementation, and the program to modernize the existing structure clear the way for both countries' continued development of their technical and economic cooperation to their mutual benefit.

Badr Criticized Over 'Ayn Shams Demonstration

PM271209 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jan 88 p 2

['Imad Mahjub and 'Abd al-Rahman Abu al-'Aynayn report: "Central Security Storms 'Ayn Shams University"!]

[Excerpts] Is it not the time for [Interior Minister] Zaki Badr to leave now that the Zionists have reproached us for having him and his crimes while at the same time we condemn their crimes against the Palestinian in the occupied territories?

Is it not the time for him to go, since it is his forces which have terrified the peaceful people in the Manshiyat al-Sadr-Hada'iq al-Qubbah areas surrounding the ['Ayn Shams] University in search of students at their homes and indiscriminately threw gas and smoke bombs at anyone in human form?

Is it not the time for him to go after 'Ayn Shams University Rector Dr Muhammad al-Hashimi has condemned the storming of the university campus by his forces and after Dr Muhammd Labib Shanab, dean of the law faculty, sustained burns to his hands as a result of one of the bombs thrown inside the university campus?

Is it not the time for him to go after the 'Ayn Shams University Students Union has legally sued him, demanding that he should be tried for his crime; namely,

storming the university, injuring hundreds of students, and detaining scores of them for no crime or reason other than speaking the truth. [passage omitted]

The demonstration headed toward Manshiyat al-Sadr, occupying two-thirds of the road and leaving the rest for public transport. However, passengers joined the demonstration, increasing the number of participants to over 2,000. In the Al-Jaraj Street, demonstrators clearly stated the homeland's worries; namely, the high cost of living, high prices, submissiveness to the Zionist enemy, and reluctance to support the Palestinian people, which is represented by the presence of the Zionist ambassador in Cairo. The masses had also condemned the interior minister for his crimes against Egypt's freedom and dignity—something which the enemies reproach us for. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Dr Muhammad al-Hashimi, the university rector, refused to discuss the matter with the interior minister, although he talked to [Education Minister] Dr Fathi Surur on more than one occasion, asking him to intervene and request the political leadership to put an end to Zaki Badr's violation of the sanctity of the university—which undermines the dignity of those working there.

Dr al-Hashimi has also made statements condemning the interior minister and denouncing his policies and the storming of the university by his forces. [passage omitted]

In view of all these developments, students had no choice but to stage a huge demonstration march, 4,000-strong, that proceeded to march inside the university and its faculties. But when they moved toward Al-Khalifah al-Ma'mun Street, they were confronted by the security forces, which fired shots in the air to frighten them off. This was followed by an onslaught of gas bombs in all directions, thus resulting in 230 students being injured; they were referred to 'Ayn Shams Hospital. [passage omitted]

Government Needs To Pause, Reexamine Affairs

PM280925 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
19 Jan 88 p 5

[Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad article: "Advice for the Sake of God and Country: Egypt Is on Top of Volcano About To Erupt"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak embarked on his tour of the Gulf states which had restored diplomatic relations with Egypt after the Amman summit conference, while the Palestinian popular uprising raged in the territories occupied by Israel. The Gulf war and the Palestinian question have been the two main topics dominating the world press, foreign media, and international circles.

It was the duty of the government inside Egypt, in its decisions and attitude, to respond to and act in harmony with these two events which have drawn world attention, and not to embarrass President Mubarak during his Gulf tour with actions undermining the credibility of the balanced statements he made in the interest of the Arab nation and its aspirations.

Israel provoked the Egyptian people with its brutal repressive measures, in violation of international law, against heroic juveniles and young people who, armed with nothing but stones, were demanding their usurped rights to their forcibly occupied land and were protesting their maltreatment. The Egyptian people naturally resented what was happening. They moved, in all their groups and affiliations, to express support for and solidarity with the Palestinian strugglers and anger at the tyrannical Israeli authorities, which used the ugliest forms of repression, stooping to shooting and killing women and children. There were similar moves throughout the world, even in the United States, Israel's top ally, where a mock funeral was staged in Washington for the martyrs of the Palestinian uprising.

However, in Egypt, the heart of the Arab nation and the biggest Arab state, the Egyptian Government, "headed by" Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr, refused to allow a peaceful demonstration from Al-Azhar University to express the Egyptian people's feelings about the popular uprising in occupied Palestine on the pretext of fearing infiltration by certain elements that would lead it to acts of subversion and destruction. Such a possibility could have been prevented by having the demonstrators flanked by policemen on both sides—a method applied to popular marches in countries which really believe in democracy, as we have seen on television. Instead, the demonstration was broken up with electric batons which paralyze the nervous system, with tear gas bombs, and with the arrest of worshipers and pedestrians alike.

When the 'Ayn Shams University youth wanted to raise their voices in condemnation of the abominable Israeli actions and the Israeli contempt for the UN Security Council resolutions, they tried to stage a peaceful demonstration. This was reported by the world press and news agencies, in support of the liberation movement in occupied Palestine, to give it more impetus to enable it to continue and to spread—after all, these students are the youth of Egypt, mother of all the Arabs, which claims to be in harmony and at peace with the sinful aggressor Israel. The demonstrators were confronted by the central security forces which stormed the university campus, beat the students up ferociously, causing casualties, hurled tear gas bombs at the auditoriums, and arrested a number of students. When the prosecution department released these students on bail, the interior minister issued warrants for the arrest of some of them under the emergency law, which the government promised the

People's Assembly, when it extended the law, never to use except in cases of armed terrorism and drug smuggling. As in many other cases, the promise was broken.

It is really sad that the Israeli representative at the UN Security Council exploited the attitude of the Egyptian interior minister in his reply to the Egyptian delegate's condemnation of Israel's coercive practices. The Israeli delegate told the Council, while the whole world was watching, that the Egyptian Government, which condemns the Israeli repressive measures, itself uses the same methods in quelling the activity of Egyptian citizens.

Indeed, it was really strange when the interior minister stood up in the Consultative Council to declare that since official circles had denounced Israel's conduct, there was no need for popular moves and that official protests were sufficient. He forgot that it is popular action that gives the official position strength and value in the eyes of Israel and its backers, and that this popular venting of steam is the safety valve which prevents some from resorting to illegal means of reacting to the Zionist actions in a manner disruptive of security and stability.

It seems that the government, which can no longer govern except under the emergency law, is afraid of the people and trembles at the thought of a popular movement, even if it is directed against Israel, the enemy of peace. It fears that such a movement might turn against it or prove to be just a rehearsal for what could happen some day against government decisions, which often make life difficult for the people, or against government actions, which often violate democracy, the Constitution, and the law.

What I dread most is that Maj Gen Zaki Badr, because of his numerous confrontations with the various factions and sects of the population—including journalists, lawyers, university teachers, opposition parties and People's Assembly representatives, and university students—has become hostile to any kind of popular action because he imagines that the aim of such action, regardless of its motives and causes, is to embarrass him.

My criticism of the interior minister does not stem from a desire to have him dismissed from his post. One of the journalists who speaks for the government said in an article in MAYU: Do the opposition papers not realize that the more they attack the interior minister, the more they strengthen his position?

I am expressing an opinion, for the sake of God and country, because I believe that Interior Minister Maj Gen Zaki Badr would not have done what he did and would not have ridiculed and insulted the nation's various sects and groups unless he had been given the green light and enjoyed the support of the other members of the government who support him and share responsibility for his actions.

I am also expressing an opinion because, as a political analyst, I sense, and as an unbiased faithful man at heart, I am certain that Egypt is sitting on top of a volcano that is about to erupt and eject consuming flames and lava destroying everything, without discriminating between good and bad.

Corruption abounds in the country and the control organs have become ineffective, acting on certain recommendations, or being nothing but figureheads. The vast majority of citizens with limited incomes and big families are having difficulty making ends meet and are suffering as a result of the insane, continuous spiraling of prices. Public security is at risk because of the increased usage of drugs—snorting, drinking, smoking, and injecting—the mounting unemployment, the loss of moral and religious values in our social relations, and the fact that the security organs put the political security of the regime above the people's security wherever their lives, families, and property are concerned. There is a loss of patriotism. The rich smuggle their money abroad; those with influence plunder millions from banks and small investors and flee the country. Those who can work and produce are frustrated and, therefore, less inclined to work hard and make sacrifices. The state now relies on others for food and charity in the form of aid and loans. There is no longer any trust between the rulers and the ruled because of the lack of true democracy, the falsification of the nation's will, and the violation of public and personal liberties. Judicial decisions are no longer respected, no longer sacrosanct. They are not implemented promptly and decisively. Individuals depend on their own private means to achieve their objectives, right or wrong.

That is our state of affairs now, at a time when foreign powers lie in wait for us, at a time when there is the danger of a drop in the water level of the Nile, the backbone of agriculture and the source of the country's water and electricity, and at a time when an atmosphere of war and conflict dominates the region.

The situation requires a pause by President Husni Mubarak, after his Gulf tour and before his trip to Europe and the United States, a pause to reexamine our internal affairs. All efforts and endeavors made on such tours and visits are worthless unless we stand on firm ground, unless we have faith in our strength, unless we are optimistic about our future, unless we are dependent on ourselves above all, and unless we turn to the Almighty God for guidance and blessing.

I sincerely advise Mubarak not to rely on official reports, which do not always portray the truth and have often misled rulers who depended on such reports while ignoring all the elements and trends representing the people. I hope he will not overlook the phenomenon of extravagance and waste, of luxury cars which create traffic jams and nearly block roads, of numerous boutiques, video clubs, and nightclubs. The truth is that the vast majority of the population cannot even pay their medical bills;

they must live in shacks and mud huts, travel daily on overcrowded means of transport, and, on their present wages, can hardly meet their basic needs. If 5 million enjoy a life of luxury, what about the other 50 million people who cannot?

We want a pause to reexamine our domestic affairs before the volcano suddenly erupts. Help and success always come from God.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges 'Generation of Anger'

LD272236 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2014 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Speech by leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to students in Al-'Aziziyah; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Here is the anger in occupied Palestine. The members of this generation, they themselves raise slogans which say that we are the generation of anger; they listen to what we say and say we are the generation of anger. Even Israeli radio said there are elements among the uprising of the Palestinian people which follow Libya. What does the phrase Libyan elements mean? It means Palestinian elements which follow Libya. See the interpretation of enemies who distort everything. Elements which follow Libya! We are one people: You are our enemies and our land is occupied. They heard them say—we are the generation of anger—and they know that this cry came from Libya. This generation of anger has bypassed Yasir 'Arafat and all these traditional leaders because it seems that they are not angry. There is someone who has a rifle but he does not fight with it. However, this one, out of anger, fought with stones. The generation of anger has begun to prove its existence; the vanguards of the generation of anger have appeared in the arena. The revolution of stones and bullets should not be the only one in the arena. Anger should include all the fields. [crowd chants]

Anger should prevail in the field and be led by this new generation because of your effectiveness, the effectiveness of each one of you, each class, each [word indistinct]. The generation of every country, from Libya to Palestine, depends on the salvation of the future of this torn nation or its final collapse. [crowd chants]

Deceit, brainwashing, duping, soccer, cards, alcohol, tourism? Why are they spreading them? In order to distract people's minds from thinking about their future. Hashish, by the order of the king, should be distributed on a large scale in order to numb all the youth. These governments show concern for one issue, in addition to their servitude and loyalty to outsiders: soccer and all these games, which distract all people, distract the youth.

Do not listen to this tasteless and unreasonable encouragement of this ball game, this group, and that of the president himself, the king himself attended the game, supervised it and distributed the medals; and that this or that team came, went, arrived, and departed. What does this mean? It means that this is an operation to numb youth. It is all a numbing operation. See in Europe the sports teams; Europe has reached the moon, gone beyond it and is heading for the remaining stars, Europe and the United States. We need mass sports to build our bodies. We should practice sports everyday, sports which make our bodies like steel, so that we can manufacture, plant, and fight, and in order to keep away illness and laziness.

Europe at present is the aim of even the female who has an old tattoo and wants to remove it, needing plastic surgery in Europe. Who used to go to Europe? They were only the khawajas [wealthy people] and those people whom we do not... [changes thought] While now the airports are full and the Europeans have started to shout: Hold up you people; they are all coming to Europe. Are they not fed up now, saying that Libyans are coming to Europe and are stranded at airports; the planes are full and the passengers are filling the grounds of the airports; the Libyans are sitting in the European airports not knowing how to return home? They might be annoyed by these things from an economic and banking aspect [as heard]; however, politically, and historically, and due to other considerations, they are greatly pleased because the airports are jammed with Libyan people.

Before the revolution who, from these poor people, were capable of traveling to Europe? We did not even have a passport [words indistinct]. We became aware of the airplane after the revolution. And whoever claimed to have been in a plane was lying. Now elderly women and men, as well as the crippled, are all heading for Europe! This was something we did not know before and were banned from doing. The sons of highly placed families were the only people who traveled to Europe, while we were unable even to go to [name indistinct]. If I were to go to Tarhunah, I was to be considered an expert. At present Azzuzz goes to the Scandinavian countries to be a Libyan expert. [sentence as heard] [laughter followed by chants]

The peoples of the Arab nation still live on country estates and farms privately owned by those rulers. Thus it is an historic action when authority, wealth, and arms are put in the hands of the people and the country is without a president, without a government, and every day the people elect members of people's committees to carry out decisions. This is a fearsome matter to them. This has destroyed the old world, destroyed the old theory and all the centuries' old arrangements: the ruler and ruled, government and people, master and slave, worker and employer, wage earner and employer, exploiter and exploited, and someone alert and another a fool. How would those rulers, rich people, businessmen, lawyers and contractors live if they did not find someone stupid and foolish, or naive, or in need? Therefore, it is in their interests to spread charlatanism, ignorance, and naivete. They did not prohibit you from going to the

Murabitin or to the Faqihs. This helped them because if awareness exists, they would lose their capability of living. When awareness was created the revolution came, and when the revolution came it brought the people's authority. They could see the outcome and they had some justification. But when there is no awareness, they can continue. If you are aware you would demand a doctor; you would demand that petrol be used to build a hospital with doctors and X-rays.

They do not want you to be aware and go to see a doctor. They would tell you to see a religious figure—they used to encourage these people by paying them money. What's your problem? You're sick? Go and see Sidi 'Abd al-Salam, he will cure you. But now, the Libyan says: I am sick, take me to Switzerland. Look, when he is sick, he requires Switzerland. One would not say: I am sick, give me treatment. So you know Switzerland, treatment, and something called abroad.

Before people did not know that there was anything beyond the sea. Those people are the only ones who know, who get treatment over there. These rich families who used to rule us, are the ones who used to get treatment abroad. As for us, we had never had treatment abroad. How could we do that?

Where did the Libyans used to get treatment? We used to get treatment from the religious figures, the holy men or their tombs which we used to visit. He who cannot procreate visits a holy man. Cases like this. Once I found a lady lying beside the tomb of this Sidi 'Abd al-Salam. What is this? Is she dead or what, I wondered. This was before the revolution when I was an officer. I swear it is a fact—a lady lying over the tomb—and I asked: What is this? I went to inquire myself about this tomb. It was a stupid scene. They said: She is a barren woman imploring Sidi 'Abd al-Salam to have children. [audience laughs] [Words indistinct]. Now any person that cannot have children goes through a whole process, and is taken to Europe to be operated on. This is the right way. But before, those who could not have children went and lay on the tomb of Sidi 'Abd al-Salam [laughter] or went to visit Sidi Rafa' Lansari, or Sidi M'Barak Tower, or Sidi Jarrari, or Sidi Bou'Jila [words indistinct] benediction. They used to be happy, visiting the religious man. Where is the charlatan? Their intelligence used to infiltrate unseen among us. They would tell you: There is a religious man who is very capable if you want him to find you a cure in his books, so that the Libyans ...[changes thought] This was by order of the government, and it still exists in the Arab countries. There are very funny things in the Arab countries.

In Baghdad, there are things from the Middle Ages which are still encouraged by the government; Musa al-Kadhim, and what have you [words indistinct] Karbala'. They would tell people to go and kill animals in the mosques, blood, women, a terrible thing. So and so would want this, and the other one would want that, and there are no hospitals and no one is allowed to go abroad. Who among us would accept such a thing, apart from simple people. We are fighting against these things. Now we are fighting these things, we close the mausoleum where the holy people are buried, we arrest charlatans, and ask people to go to hospitals. Before, the government ruling us used to want us to go to these places in order to avoid building hospitals, avoid spending money on us, or sending us abroad. They would tell us to go and die, knowing that neither the charlatan nor the holy man would cure us, but as the people are stupid, they go spreading ideas of tombs and the like. The government itself is building domes over the tombs of holy men. Domes over anything, even over dead dogs, to have people go and ask for blessings. Once, one of the governments built a dome over the tomb of an Italian. They said: We found a tomb, we built a dome over it, [words indistinct], and let the people go to the holy men, to the [word indistinct], to have them cure people by their books, or to cauterize, or cup them [words indistinct].

As for them and their sons, have you ever seen the son of a minister, or the son of a deputy minister, or the minister himself or his deputy? Have you ever met them near a tomb of a holy man, saying cure me because I have a headache. The car would take him right away to Switzerland or to the United States.

Envoy Comments on Postponement of OAU Meeting

LD221016 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The Chadian issue is back in the limelight after the postponement of the OAU ad hoc committee meeting. Ndjamena is against the postponement; the Chadian authorities claim not to have been informed. The meeting was scheduled for the beginning of February but was finally delayed until April. [passage omitted]

The Libyan side showed itself not be particularly surprised, even less scandalized, by the postponement. Radio journalist (Farida Ayari) interviewed Libyan Ambassador in Paris Hamid al-Khudayri in Paris yesterday:

[Begin Al-Khudayri recording] I think that the committee is free to decide when the meeting can take place or to set a precise date which suits everybody. As you know, Libya is not a member; it is concerned with the work of the committee but it is not a member of it. That is why it respects the decision of the chairman of the committee or that of the committee as a whole, because it sincerely wishes the committee to be able to work thoroughly and in a calm and constructive spirit, one of independence, so as to truly see the issue in its entirety, and to check all documents submitted to the committee. I believe this to have been our objective from the start at the Lusaka meeting. We thought that in order to be able to work, the committee must be given enough time to check all

documents. You know how long the translation of a document into another language takes if you want to make sure that it is comprehensible to all members of the committee. [end recording]

TANJUG Examines Situation With Chad

LD270734 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0213 GMT 27 Jan 88

["Pool" item: "New Games Round Chad," by Dejan Lukic—TANJUG headline]

[Text] Tripoli, January 27 (TANJUG)—Libya feels that the postponement of a meeting of African member-representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Committee for Chad could be a prelude to an end to the ceasefire on the Chadian-Libyan border. According to semi-official assessments heard in Tripoli, the "intentional prolongation" of the final arbitration on the disputed Aozou area is part of Chadian President Habre's plans to gain an opportunity for a new military action and in this way "fulfill his ambitions".

Libya has presented to the French ambassador in Tripoli a protest against "the obvious French instigation of a new war conflict in Chad". The Libyan protest followed French Defense Minister Andre Giraud's charges that Libyan troops have been making incursions into parts of Sudan's western province of Darfur. Tripoli rejected the French accusations yesterday and said they were a pretext for Habre's troops to carry out a new attack on the Aozou area.

Libya has for some time been carrying out extensive "defense" measures in anticipation of a new attack from Chad. As part of the measures, it has deployed large concentrations of troops and war materiel on the southern borders.

The Libyan anti-aircraft defense positions in the south of the country were recently toured by Soviet Air Defense Commander Tretyak. According to well-informed circles, the Soviet commander assessed that "progress" had been made in the Libyan anti-aircraft defense system but that it was, nevertheless, necessary "as quickly as possible" to capacitate it for more effective combat action.

The Soviet military official's statement is most likely connected with the current visit to Brazil of a Libyan military delegation, whose main task it is, according to well-informed circles, to negotiate missile purchases. The same sources specify that Libya is interested in ground-to-ground missiles, which are given priority in preparations for "new developments" on the country's southern borders.

The Libyan troops in the Aozou area have been joined by units of the so-called "pan-Arab military phalanx", i.e., several thousand Libyan Druze, Palestinians, Armenians and other seasoned combatants. They are said to constitute the backbone of the defense in the Aozou area, although their stay on Libyan territory is temporary. A ranking Palestinian official has stated to TANJUG correspondent in Tripoli that Palestinians will "not for ever" remain in Libya and that the units which are there now have been detached from the reserve forces highly needed in Lebanon and on the borders with Israel, of which Libyan leader al-Qadhdhafi has been informed.

U.S. Ban on Medical Supplies Condemned

LD271604 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Geneva, January 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—REUTER has said that the Executive Council of the World Health Organization approved on 20 instant [as received] in its meeting in Geneva to provide Libya with what it needs as regards medicine and medical supplies.

This organization will purchase some medicines including those used in combatting cancer which are made in the U.S. only.

Reagan's administration has resolved that medicines and medical supplies should not be sent to Libya. This comes to carry out Reagan's racist policy towards Libya.

JANA's political affairs editor says that Reagan's ban on medicines and medical supplies to Libya is both uncivilized and inhumane, apart from showing prejudice and racism. It also reveals that the slogans for freedom, peace and human rights propagated by Reagan's administration are baseless allegations.

Such measure, the editor assert, might be taken into account should it include objects other than medical relating to security.

But, since it relates to medicines and medical supplies it is a barbarous measure apart from displaying a mentality that is neither to understand the spirit of our modern age nor the relations among peoples worldwide.

This ban represents a declaration of hostile war waged by a state like the U.S. against small nations that reject its hegemony.

Health Cooperation Accord Signed With Algeria

LD281049 Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, January 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An agreement of cooperation in the field of health was signed last night between the Jamahiriyah and Algeria, implementing what was put down in the draft paper of the joint executive Libyan-Algerian council.

The agreement includes exchanging technical knowhow and setting programmes to prevent diseases.

It also urged for exchanging medicine and services relating to motherhood and childhood throughout the two countries.

Senegal Envoy Departs, Praises Al-Qadhdhafi

LD272101 Tripoli JANA in English 1808 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Ahmad Khalifa Nias" the personal envoy of President "Abdou Diouf" of Senegal left Tripoli at noon today at the end of his visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA before his departure from Tripoli International Airport, Nias expressed pleasure for meeting the leader. He added that during that meeting, he has assured the leader of the revolution about the deep affection and respect the Senegalese people feels for him.

Nias added: "Such affections were confirmed by the warm reception given to the leader during the visit he made to Senegal when 2 million Senegalese citizens amassed to welcome such a great leader who carries the hopes of the African peoples and embodies their aspirations and in appreciation to the brave challenges the Libyan Arab people had made in confronting colonialism and its associates. [no end quotes as received]

He said: "This what explains the rushing of large crowds of the Senegalese people to meet such leader who calls for the liberation from all chains and towards freedom".

Mauritania

Justice Minister Returns From Gulf States Tour

AB271018 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Mr Cheikh Mohamed Salem Ould Mohamed Lemine, minister of justice, returned to Nouakchott late yesterday morning at the end of a visit to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, and Iraq. During this tour, the minister of justice delivered messages from Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the CMSN and head of state, to the leaders of these sister countries. The minister of justice said that these messages dealt with cooperation between Mauritania and these countries, as well as issues of interest to the Arab Islamic nation, especially the Iraq-Iran war and the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories. In return, the justice minister concluded, the leaders of the countries he had visited asked him to deliver their greetings to the head of state, as well as their support for the economic and financial recovery policy being followed by Mauritania.

Common Law Prisoners Turned Over to Senegal

AB272128 Paris AFP in French 1911 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Nouakchott, 27 Jan (AFP)—Mauritania turned over a group of 159 Senegalese common law prisoners to the Senegalese authorities on 5 December last year, the MAURITANIAN PRESS AGENCY (AMP) announced this afternoon. AMP pointed out that this transfer was made at the request of Senegal and that it was never a question of the expulsion of Senegalese nationals by Mauritania, as rumors circulating in Dakar had indicated.

"This exceptional gesture of friendship," the agency stated, "demonstrates the permanent concern of the Mauritanian authorities to work for the consolidation of the relations of good-neighborliness between the two brotherly countries. It is also a rare event in relations between states as such prisoners are normally treated in a completely different manner."

Morocco

Editorials Dispute Algerian Claim to Oujda

LD261658 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Rabat, 25 Jan (MAP)—National newspapers today devoted their commentaries to declarations issued by the Algerian FLN through REVOLUTION AFRICAINE which claim that the town of Oujda is Algerian, ethnically and geographically.

Under the headline "Excess in Stupidity", the RISALAT AL-UMMAH newspaper noted that this allegation reflects the fact that the Algerian regime is acting with falsehood, distortion, cunning, and provocation of the principles of conduct not only with the nearest of neighbors but with its partners in various continents.

The paper added that "we cannot find an appropriate description for this allegation, except that it is an excess in distorting geographical and historical realities," stressing that "it goes along with the policy of hegemony, expansion, and extension practiced by Algeria despite the slogans it is raising unashamedly."

RISALAT AL-UMMAH explained that this policy, contrary to reality, history, and to the simplest principles of good-neighborliness, proves again that Algeria is concentrating all its capacities and energies in an effort to destabilize the region, to cause unrest, to search for conflicts, and to stir latent depths for more unrest and instability."

The "AL-NIDHAL AL-DIMOQRATI" newspaper stressed that the falsifications included in the REVOLUTION AFRICAINE editorial make people judge the Algerian policy as a series of bad jokes aimed at troubling the atmosphere and killing attempts to build the Arab Maghreb.

It noted that instead of making Oujda an issue to distort history, the Algerian information would do better to look upon this Moroccan town with respect, reverence, and especially gratitude in that it had offered the Algerian fighters refuge, supported them, and shared their struggle. It said that the Algerian allegation is but "an attempt to distort Moroccan attention from claiming Tindouf and other [towns] under Algerian control, which is exploiting their wealth and getting rich off them at the expense of Morocco".

L'OPINION stressed that the allegations that Oujda is an "Algerian town" is sheer imagination, and pointed out that it has been the Algerian Government's habit to regard fallacies as facts like its 1975 allegation that the Moroccan Sahara is "an Algerian governorate." The paper added that such fallacies have not surprised us; they reaffirm the Algerian rulers' expansionist policies and reflect their failure to fulfill the commitments they had pledged before Algeria gained independence. They also reflect the aggressive policy adopted toward Morocco since 1963.

After having recalled that Algeria has benefited from the colonialist legacy, L'OPINION pointed out that it has obstinately clung to the borders inherited from the colonialist era because the latter guarantees Algeria territories which do not belong to it. The paper stated that such a problem can explain the policy followed by Algeria in the region and stressed that the Algerian fallacies cannot hide the heart of the problem. On the contrary, they reffirm Morocco's rights to those territories annexed to Algeria by France during the colonialist era.

Peace Committees Issue Joint Communique

LD270518 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The Moroccan Committee for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Among Peoples and the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace have issued a joint communique. The communique contains the two committees exchange of views on issues of peace in the world and the means liable to preserve that peace and security, the issue of Afro-Asian solidarity, and limiting the arms race. Both sides expressed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people. After the signing of the joint communique, Maksud I. Ibragimbekov, the leader of the Soviet delegation, held a press conference in which he answered questions from correspondents of the national media. Ibragimbekov praised the continuing peace efforts exerted by Morocco for the ending of tension in Northwest Africa, in view of the distinguished position it occupies within the international community. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Hasan Receives Lebanese Envoy

According to a report from Rabat, Lebanon's Ambassador to Morocco Sami Qurunful has presented his credentials to King Hassan II, who asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and wishes to President Amin al-Jumayyil. [Text] [*Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Jan 88 NC*]

Sudan

Envoy Cited on Libya Ties, Military Talks

JN271222 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1012 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli/Khartoum, 27 Jan (SUNA)—A Sudanese military delegation held talks in Tripoli at the beginning of this week with Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, and other Libyan senior officers.

A Libyan official told AL-ITTIHAD in an article published in Khartoum today that the visit by the Sudanese military delegation is in implementation of the military protocol signed by the two countries following the Sudanese popular uprising.

Neither Libyan nor Sudanese sources have disclosed to what extent the implementation of this protocol has been completed. The visit was described as "normal" and within the framework of exchanging visits.

The Sudanese ambassador to Libya, 'Abd Al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi, has stressed that Libyan military support to Sudan is constantly flowing, and that the Tripoli talks were successful.

The military delegation returned to Khartoum Monday. Before their departure, the members of the delegation met with some Libyan military officers.

Ambassador al-Ahmadi commented on the Libyan-Sudanese relations by accusing some parties of having an interest in disturbing these ties. He described the Libyan-Sudanese relations as basic in so far as the true integration of resources is concerned. He urged for exerting more efforts in the interest of the people of both countries.

The ambassador said: The Libyan stand with regard to the questions of identity and the rebellion in Sudan is principled [as received], and Libya has exerted every possible effort to end the problem of the south without receiving any favorable response from the rebel movement.

He expressed regret over the continuation and escalation of the war and bloodshed in the south. While calling for dialogue and negotiations, he said that Sudan will never allow the occupation of a single inch of Sudanese territory by any party.

Ambassador al-Ahmadi disclosed for the first time that Libya had provided Sudan with military assistance during the occupation of Kurmuk by rebels. This assistance, he said, was one of the direct reasons for ending the occupation and recapturing the city.

Al-Ahmadi stressed that there is no disagreement between Sudan and Libya over the Chadian problem. He said that Libya is seeking a peaceful settlement to the dispute and that it had provided the OAU with special documents on the Aozou Strip during the visit of Zambian President Kaunda to Tripoli.

The ambassador added that Khartoum and Tripoli are now working for a settlement of the Libyan-Chadian dispute within the framework of the national reconciliation in Chad.

On another issue, the ambassador hailed Libya's efforts to heal the rift between Sudan and Ethiopia. He said that Libyan is continuing these efforts in view of the fact that it has distinguished relations with both countries.

Al-Ahmadi denied recently circulated reports that there are Libyan troops in Sudan.

Military Commander Receives Libyan Delegation

EA272147 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] In his office at the General Command this morning, General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, received a Libyan military delegation led by Colonel Ishaq Faraj. During the meeting, military relations between the two sides were reviewed. [passage indistinct]

It is worth mentioning that the visit of the Libyan military delegation takes place within the framework of a military protocol signed between the two countries.

Nigeria's Obasanjo on Mediation With SPLM

JN271305 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum Jan 27 (SUNA)—Former Nigerian President Obasanjo who is currently conducting efforts of peace between Sudan's Government and Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) of Col John Garang described his mission as successful. Obasanjo arrived here yesterday from Cairo where he reviewed with Egyptian officials Egypt's efforts of mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia.

The former Nigerian president met the same day with the member of the Council of the State Dr. Pacifico Lado Lolek who briefed him on the efforts currently being exerted towards the convening of constitution conference.

Repatriation of Troops in Uganda Sought

JN271311 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum Jan 27 (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government is currently contacting Ugandan authorities for finalizing preparations to bring home more than four hundred Sudanese troops who have entered Uganda following the taking of Kapoeta town by the (SPLA) rebel troops it was announced yesterday.

The town of Kapoeta was said to be evacuated by the Sudanese Armed Forces after attacks by the SPLA.

Some of the government troops retreated inside Uganda. The government official spokesman Al-Tum Mohammad al-Tum has stressed that the government would not negotiate with the movement of Garang (the SPLA) unless all the Sudanese territories have been retaken asserting that the government would parallel this with its peaceful efforts for solving the south Sudan question.

Tunisia

Algeria's Messaadia Delivers Message 27 Jan

LD271508 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] This morning at the presidential palace in Carthage, President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali conferred with Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, in the presence of Mr Slaheddine Baly, minister of state for national defense; Dr Hamid Saroui, director of the Destourian Socialist Party; and Mr Messaoud Ait Chalal, Algerian ambassador to Tunisia.

Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Messaadia] In this visit I am carrying a message from President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN and president of Algeria, to Brother President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali, president of Tunisia. This comes within the framework of coordination between the two countries and discussion of issues of mutual interest on the Arab Maghreb, on Arab and African levels, and all issues of interest to Tunisia and Algeria.

[Unidentified correspondent] Should we expect new movements in the Arab Maghreb arena?

[Messaadia] These movements have not stopped and will not stop until we achieve our goals. They will not stop. [end recording]

Energy, Industry Talks Begin With Algeria

LD272201 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Algerian-Tunisian talks on cooperation in energy and industry started today in Tunis under the chairmanship of Belkacem Nabi, Algerian minister of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries, and Slaheddine Ben Mbarak, Tunisian minister of national economy.

The two sides reviewed the development of industrial cooperation in energy and industry and the prospects for their future development.

The two ministers expressed their satisfaction at the steps made by the two sides within the framework of efforts toward economic integration and promoting bilateral cooperation to the level of the aspirations of the two leaders and peoples.

The two ministers stressed their efforts to intensify action to hold in-depth discussions on the new joint projects between the two countries. The two delegations formed two committees, the first of which is in charge of energy, while the second is in charge of studying the joint projects currently being carried out and those that can be implemented in the future.

Mestiri Talks With Libyan Representative

LD261925 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri met today with 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libya's permanent representative at the Arab League. The two reviewed bilateral ties since the resumption of diplomatic relations between Tunisia and Libya. In addition, they discussed efforts to bolster bilateral ties and assessed the situation in the region.

Destourian Party Assesses Election Results

LD261916 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau of the Destourian Socialist Party met this morning at the presidential palace in Carthage under the chairmanship of Zine El Abedine Ben Ali, Party chairman. The results of the Tunisian legislative elections, held last Sunday, were assessed.

The Political Bureau recorded its full satisfaction with the amiable conditions under which the elections were held and the democratic atmosphere and the implementation of the law that characterized them, while expressing its pride with the Party candidates' victory.

The Political Bureau looked into appropriate ways of developing the Party press to become more useful and effective in conveying the Party's message and developing the Party program in the fields of guidance and cadre training. [passage omitted]

Also discussed were preparations for convening the African League of Socialist Parties conference which will be hosted by Tunisia on 30-31 January. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Receives French Economic Affairs Minister

LD271537 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The amir of Kuwait at 1000 this morning received the French minister of state for economic and financial affairs, Edouard Balladur, on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait. The meeting was attended by the minister of finance, Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi, and the French ambassador to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Departs After Talks

LD271647 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 27 Jan (KUNA)—Edouard Balladur, the French minister of state for financial and economic affairs, left Kuwait today at the end of a 2-day official visit during which he met with the amir, the heir apparent and prime minister, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Prior to his departure, the French official also held talks with Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi and other senior officials at the Finance Ministry and discussed with them bilateral relations and ways to boost them, especially in economic and commercial fields. [passage omitted]

The joint Kuwaiti-French committee ended its proceedings this afternoon with the ratification of the minutes of its meeting in the presence of Al-Khurafi and Balladur. The meeting of the joint committee dealt with a number of economic topics, including the protection of Kuwaiti investments in France and the income tax issue. Several recommendations and proposals regarding these issues were adopted at the meeting.

Egyptian Minister Delivers Message to Amir

LD271038 Kuwait Kuna in English 1006 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 27 (KUNA)—H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh al-Ahmed al-Jabir al-Sabah received a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The message was delivered by Egyptian Minister of Justice Faruq Sayf al-Nasar who was received by H.H. the Amir earlier today. The Egyptian minister arrived here last night. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

Holds 'Official Talks'

LD271317 Kuwait KUNA in English 1056 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 27 (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti-Egyptian official talks, held here Wednesday, centered on means of strengthening judicial relations between the two countries. The talks which were headed by Kuwaiti Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dari al-'Uthman and Egyptian counterpart Faruq Sayf al-Nasar, also tackled the "special nature" of the judicial relations that link Kuwait and Egypt.

This was stated to KUNA by the Kuwaiti Minister al-Uthman following the meeting. The Kuwaiti minister added that because there are many Egyptians working in the justice apparatus in Kuwait, the talks centered on best means to find programmes to ensure optimal benefit from the experience of the Egyptian staff. He noted that there is an agreement between Kuwait and Egypt on judicial cooperation.

Joint Committee With Romania Concludes Talks

LD271130 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1003 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 27 Jan (KUNA)—This morning in Kuwait the Kuwaiti-Romanian joint committee concluded its meetings, which began the day before yesterday at the Ministry of Transportation.

In these meetings, the committee discussed a number of subjects, among which are land transportation and transit between the two countries according to the agreement signed by the two sides in 1980. [passage omitted]

The committee also discussed matters relating to the maritime agreement between the two countries and in this regard the Romanian side stressed that Romanian ships will continue to transport goods to Kuwait. The two sides agreed to exchange some land and transit facilities.

The minutes of the agreement will be signed next Saturday with the attendance of the members of the Kuwaiti and Romanian delegations at the Ministry of Transportation. The next meeting is to be held in Bucharest next year to discuss any new issues.

Defense Minister Discusses Security Strategy

LD281012 Kuwait KUNA in English 0842 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Jeddah, Jan 28 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad Thursday stressed that the security of Kuwait follows a long range strategy based on full alert to foil any attempt hatched against the stability of the country.

In a statement to the Saudi daily "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT," Nawaf affirmed that "there is no bargaining on the security of Kuwait." The Kuwaiti official, who resumed his new post as defence minister yesterday was the interior minister when he delivered the statement to the paper.

Shaykh Nawaf said that the sabotage action during the recent years against Kuwait was the result of the Iraq-Iran war, but he did not point out at the responsible side, noting that Kuwait has faced such actions with strength and wisdom in order to get to the perpetrators.

Concerning security cooperation between Kuwait and the other five Gulf Cooperation Council member states Shaykh Nawaf said that the cooperation includes all security fields through consultation or exchange of information or by providing support and solidarity to each other, arguing that the GCC security strategy agreement will strengthen such cooperation.

The Kuwaiti official added that security cooperation also exists between Kuwait and most of the world's countries through protocols, agreements or the international police (Interpol).

Oil Minister Says Production Below Quota

LD271007 Kuwait KUNA in English 0902 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 27 (KUNA)—Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi, in a statement published here Wednesday, denied foreign reports which claimed that Kuwait was over producing its OPEC oil production quota. Kuwait according to the foreign reports had increased its allocated quota by 50 thousand barrels per day.

Daly "AL-WATAN" quoted oil minister as saying that Kuwait remains committed to its quota of 996,000 barrels per day. He indicated that Kuwait's current oil output is less than its OPEC quota.

PDRY

Council of Ministers Holds 26 Jan Session

EA262056 Aden ANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its regular session this morning, under the chairmanship of Comrade Dr Yasin Sa'id Numan, member of the [YSP] Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, in collaboration with the chairmen of the executive offices of the local people's councils of the governorates. [passage omitted]

The Council heard a report on the recent visit by a delegation led by the minister of planning to the USSR and its meetings with Soviet officials. The Council appraised the outcome of this visit, which has emphasized that friendship and cooperation between our country and the friendly USSR are gaining strength and developing day by day (?in the interests) of the joint goals and aspirations of the peoples of both friendly countries.

The Council approved the agreement signed between our country and the Government of the Republic of India [words indistinct] on income tax exemption [words indistinct] in the field of air transportation.

The Council approved the financial protocol signed between our country and the Government of the French Republic on the modernization and development of a weaving and spinning factory.

The Council also approved the sports agreement protocol between our country's Higher Sports Council and the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti for 1988.

The Council of Ministers also discussed a number of other subjects and reports on its agenda and made the necessary decisions on them.

Two Supreme People's Council Decrees Issued

EA280510 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, has issued two decrees of the Supreme People's Council on ratifying two decrees of the Supreme People's Council Presidium: No 28 of 1987 and No 1 of 1988.

The first article of the first decree provides for the ratification of Decree No 28 of 1987 of the Supreme People's Council Presidium on the ratification of a loan agreement for the development of the fifth highway project between the PDRY and the International Development Association, which was signed in the District of Columbia in the United States on 9 September 1987.

The first article of the second decree provides for the ratification of Decree No 1 of 1988 of the Supreme People's Council Presidium on the ratification of an agreement between the PDRY and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development, which was signed in Aden on 25 October 1987, for the provision of an additional loan and amendment of a loan agreement, concluded on 27 June 1984, for financing phase one of the Aden ring road project.

Foreign Minister Returns From Tunis Meeting

EA271835 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the [YSP] Central Committee and foreign minister, returned to Aden this afternoon from Tunis after participating in the emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers which was convened in Tunis recently to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Dr al-Dali expressed satisfaction at the success of the emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers, describing it as an expression of the unity of the Arab position and solidarity with the uprising of our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories in their struggle against occupation and arbitrariness by the Zionist authorities. [passage omitted]

At the end of his statement, the brother foreign minister pointed out that he had conveyed a message from Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to his brother, Tunisian President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali, concerning relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of strengthening and developing them, the situation in our region, and Arab solidarity in confronting imperialist and Zionist dangers.

He was received by Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Central Committee and deputy foreign minister.

United Arab Emirates

French Minister Holds News Conference

JN261703 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Dubayy, Jan 26 (GNA)—The UAE and France are in the process of concluding two agreements on tax and investment, French Finance and Economy Minister Edouard Balladur said today. He said the tax agreement would be signed soon and was a result of his successful talks with UAE leaders.

Balladur, on a two-day visit to the UAE, told a news conference here that his talks with Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi crown prince and supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, covered economic, trade and monetary issues.

"Both sides had identical views concerning monetary stability that helps continued world economic and financial stability," he said.

He said his talks also dealt with dialogue between the European Community (EC) and the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC).

"The EC has decided to resume talks with the GCC and France played a key role in that direction," he told reporters.

LE MONDE Report

PM271616 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Jan 88 p 4

["V.M." report: "Mr Balladur: France's Arab Policy Is Not Directed Against Anybody"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—"France has an Arab policy which applies here as much as in the Near East. This policy is not directed against anybody but must be taken for what it is. It cannot be subject to blackmail or to short-term considerations," Economy, Finance, and Privatization Minister Edouard Balladur said on Monday, 25 January, during an official visit to the UAE.

As in Saudi Arabia on the previous 2 days, the French minister, who was representing [French Prime Minister] Jacques Chirac, tried to reassure the Arab authorities and Arab opinion worried by the recent attempts to bring about a rapprochement between France and Iran.

Mr Balladur said Paris would maintain its naval presence in the Gulf to "sovereignly guarantee the security of our shipping and to ensure that international law is respected in international waters." Finally, the minister said France should "press for an end to a terrible and futile conflict" and that it was doing so "in advocating the immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598." In saying that, he was living up to the expectations of the Gulf countries which want increased international pressure to force Iran to accept a negotiated solution to the war with Iraq.

In the economic sphere, Mr Balladur announced the forthcoming signing of two agreements making it possible to encourage UAE investment in France, one avoiding double taxation and the other guaranteeing security and protection for foreign investments.

President Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

JN271318 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1253 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting for the Council of Ministers to discuss issues and topics on the agenda and to take the necessary measures in this regard.

Attending the meeting were 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and RCC member; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president and RCC member; the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command members; the head of the president's office; the ministers; and a number of state officials.

Minister Notes Syria's 'Treasonous Stands'

JN271853 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1812 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, today received Walid Abu Zahr, editor in chief of the AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI magazine. He then received Fu'ad Matar, editor in chief of AL-TADAMUN magazine.

During the two meetings, the minister of culture and information reviewed the agent Syrian regime's treasonous stands against the Arab nation's interests and this regime's acts which harm the higher considerations of pan-Arab security. He said that this regime's suspect alliance with the Iranian regime is a planned plot serving the interests of the aggressors and covetous ones who harbor ill intentions for the Arab nation, its interests, and its fateful issues.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim said the agent Syrian regime's stands violate the Amman summit resolutions and its spirit which reflects an Arab unanimity toward condemning the Iranian aggression against the Arab nation. He called for exposing the practices of this abnormal and suspect regime. He added that this regime serves the interests of the Persian and Zionist enemies and conspires against the joint Arab action and the spirit of solidarity in Arab relations.

The minister said this regime's officials have lost the minimum level of commitment toward Arab values and morality that officials should have when they deal with the Arab nation's fateful issues.

'Traitor' Al-Asad Criticized

JN271917 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brother Arabs, Al-Asad, who is the head of the regime in Damascus, has been an element of treachery, treason, and harm with respect to the nation and its causes. His interference in Lebanon has made this country an arena for exhausting Syria's national resources and squandering its forces in conflicts which will only serve Zionist schemes in the region. He has done so either by exhausting fraternal Lebanon and dismembering it through the civil war which has been raging there for many years or by obstructing the Syrian people's will to defend their existence and their usurped land.

Not content with only this, he conspired against the Palestinian people and their revolution and offered services to the Zionists for which he was paid in advance to keep the Arab atmosphere tense. Instead of resorting to Arab solidarity, joining the Arab nation's trench, and seeking radical and salutary solutions to Syria's crises, the Syrian regime began committing new acts of treason against Iraq and the Arabs. It has also committed deviant actions with the sole purpose of anesthetizing our Syrian people and obstructing their revolutionary will.

These actions also conspire against the Syrian people's incessant struggle to liberate themselves from the regime of oppression and choose the sound national and pan-Arab course for tackling their problems and causes. The Syrian regime's actions also prevent the Syrian people from confronting the fateful challenges in a manner in line with their aspirations and their complete faith in their firm principles of liberation.

The Syrian regime always allies itself with the Arab nation's enemies to remain in power. It resorts to such a method as part of its oppressive rule. This regime will not succeed forever in facing the state of rejection and rebellion which escalates whenever the method of oppression intensifies and whenever the regime's crimes and the attempts to silence people escalate. The treasonous regime in Damascus proceeds on a course of violence against the people. It imprisons all those who reject its alliance with the Iranian rulers and its collaboration with the Zionist circles in antagonizing Iraq, the fraternal Arab country which is confronting the forces of aggression and conspiracy courageously and capably.

When the regime of the traitor rulers in Damascus proceed on such a course, it must expect a violent reply from our people in Syria and our Arab people in the Arab homeland. The Syrian regime's allies have failed in their conspiracies and schemes against Iraq. Even so, the Arab masses must escalate their struggle against this oppressive regime which has followed no other course but that of treachery and collaboration with the enemies and tampering with the most serious Arab causes. This regime has become a time bomb in the midst of the Arab nation. The Arab nation is dutybound to defuse it, explain its peril, and expose it on all levels.

Hafiz al-Asad has been a traitor and will continue to be so because treason runs in his veins as it does in inveterate criminals and those who are addicted to vile actions.

Steadfast and victorious Iraq will continue to be a thorn in the side of Hafiz al-Asad and his Zionist and Khomeyniite allies. Victory will always be the lot of the faithful and of Saddam Husayn, their victorious leader.

Reportage on Visit by Tunisia's Baccouche

Arrives 26 Jan

JN261602 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Baghdad at noon today on an official visit to Iraq within a regional tour. Baccouche said upon arrival: We in Tunisia, as leadership and people, follow with pride the struggle being waged by the brave Iraqi Army and all the Iraqi people to defend their homeland.

Baccouche affirmed that the Iraqis are safeguarding Arab existence and protecting the Arab homeland. He also praised the martyrs who had sacrificed their souls in the battles of honor.

Holds Talks in Baghdad

JN271036 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The official Iraqi-Tunisian talks began today. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister headed the Iraqi side, while Hedi Baccouche, prime minister, headed the Tunisian side.

At the beginning of the talks, the RCC member reviewed the developments of the Iranian aggression against Iraq. He stressed Iraq's adherence to the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 in accordance with the sequence of its clauses and its rejection of any alteration of the resolution. He asserted that the Iraqi Armed Forces are ready to annihilate any attempt by the Zionist Khomeyniite aggressors. He also pointed out that the Iraqi economy is progressing, thanks to the preliminary positive results of the economic and administrative revolution led by leader President Saddam Husayn.

Hedi Baccouche expressed Tunisia's serious desire to promote relations with Iraq in all economic, trade, and cultural fields. He reiterated fraternal Tunisia's support for Iraq and the other Arab countries which are exposed to any foreign aggression. He also expressed his country's concern for supporting efforts to bolster joint Arab action.

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the under secretary of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, the director of the Arab Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the head of the first deputy prime minister's office attended the talks on the Iraqi side.

Attending on the Tunisian side were the director of the Arab Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, the prime minister's political and press advisers, and the Tunisian ambassador in Baghdad.

Earlier Taha Yasin Ramadan and Hedi Baccouche held a closed meeting during which they expressed their deep satisfaction with the developed level of Iraq-Tunisian relations in all fields. They also stressed the importance of meetings between the two fraternal countries' officials to coordinate joint stands toward fateful Arab issues.

Departs 27 Jan

JN271254 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccounche left Baghdad today following a 1-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Baccouche expressed his country's full solidarity with Iraq's just defense of its sovereignty and the Arab nation's honor and dignity. He said he had delivered a message to President Saddam Husayn from the Tunisian president. The message deals with the situation in Tunisia after President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali assumed power, as well as with the Arab situation.

The Tunisian prime minister stressed the need to adhere to the results of the emergency Amman summit as it is an important gain which must be safeguarded to confront challenges to the Arab nation.

Hedi Baccouche was seen off by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign ministr; and the ministers.

Cooperation Talks With Czechoslovakia Begin

JN261409 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—The first round of Iraqi-Czechoslovak talks for economic, technical, and scientific cooperation began here today within the framework of the eighth session of the joint committee for bilateral cooperation.

The Iraqi side was led by Heavy Industries Minister 'Abd al-Tawwab al-Mulla Huwaysh and the Czechoslovak side was led by Electrotechnical Industry Minister Ladislav Luhovy. In their speeches, the two chairmen of the delegations expressed their countries' desire and concern to develop the existing relations in the economic, scientific, and technical spheres in the service of their common interests. Specialized subcommittees were formed to discuss industrial, technical, scientific, trade, agricultural, and financial cooperation.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by the Industry Ministry under secretary, the deputy chairman of the Iraqi side to the joint committee, and on the Czechoslovak side by the under secretaries of the Ministreis of Electrotechnical Industry and Foreign Trade and the CSSR ambassador in Baghdad.

Ladislav Luhovy and his accompanying delegation arrived in Baghdad at dawn today to lead the Czechoslovak side to the joint Iraqi-Czechoslovak committee.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,001

JN271811 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Communique No 3,001 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are carrying Iraq's pride and past and present glory. They are proudly and bravely confronting our nation's racist, anti-Arab enemies. Our Armed Forces are fully prepared to crush enemy remnants and destroy their evil intentions, deriving help from God, the leader's wisdom, and the strength of our men. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Pursuant to our just and legitimate decision to block off all the Iranian regime's aggressive supply terminals and to destroy its pillars and means which aid it to continue the war against our country, the noble hawks carried out the following missions:

a. At 0135 today [2235 GMT on 26 January], an accurate and effective blow was dealt to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

b. At 1007 today, our aircraft launched a devastating raid on a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast. They dealt it an accurate and effective blow.

c. At 1130, the valiant hawks pounded an enemy surface-to-air missile battery in the southern sector of operations. They destroyed their target.

Having carried out these missions, the hawks returned safely and victoriously to base in God's care and protection.

2. One of our brave units clashed with a group of enemy personnel in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces. Our capable unit captured two of the scoundrels and killed four others, including an officer. They also seized six rifles. The unit returned safely to its positions.

3. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector dealt intensive blows with artillery and other weapons to groups of enemy personnel, vehicles, and engineering equipment. Our units inflicted the following important losses on the enemy: 221 personnel were killed; 1 rocket launcher was destroyed; 2 armored personnel carriers were destroyed; 13 vehicles and 7 machineguns were destroyed; 2 106-mm guns and 1 shovel were destroyed; and 15 ammunition dumps were blown up.

4. One of the aggressors was killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basra. One machinegun and one mortar were destroyed in the same sector.

5. In the VII Army Corps sector, one infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were either killed or wounded and one ammunition dump was blown up.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 January 1988

Planes Hit Supertanker

JN272149 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] AP has said that Iraqi fighter planes hit a Cypriot-flagged supertanker off the Iranian coast this morning. The British [as heard] news agency quoted shipping sources in the Arabian Gulf as saying that the supertanker which sustained heavy damage is named ("Aloline Tiba").

The report said the supertanker, which Iran uses in its shuttle trips to transport crude oil, was leaving Khark Island filled with oil when it was exposed to the Iraqi air attack.

In another development, Roger Lewis, the official in charge of the damages department at the British Lloyds Insurance Company, told the INA correspondent in London by telephone that he had received information about the attack on the Cypriot-flagged supertanker, but that he has not yet gotten details on the hit and its results.

The Armed Forces General Command had announced in today's communique that our aircraft launched a devastating raid on a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast and dealt it an accurate and effective blow.

Romanian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

TA271820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Ioan Totu arrived in Israel this evening on a 2-day visit. He was greeted at the airport by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The guest did not make any statements to the press. Mr Peres, however, said this is an important visit because it is the first time that an East European foreign minister has paid an official visit to Israel. Israel also wants to hear Romania's opinions about our region and check the views of the Soviet Union, Peres said.

Talks With Peres, Shamir

TA281200 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Ioan Totu conferred with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning, and told him that the incidents in the territories underline once again the need for an urgent effort to solve the Palestinian problem within the framework of an international peace conference. Totu expressed his country's position on the need for an Israeli withdrawal from the territories. He is now conferring with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Sharir Promises Pollards 'Humanitarian Aid'

TA280537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Carol Pollard, the sister of Jonathan Pollard who is serving life imprisonment for spying for Israel, has met Justice Minister Avraham Sharir at the request of the Israeli Committee for Pollard and after the approval of Prime Minister Shamir. Sharir said he would not interfere with the legal matters, but would do all in his power to help the Pollards in humanitarian aid.

Soldiers 'Beat Up' CBS Crew Filming in Gaza

TA271825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Soldiers beat up a camera crew working for CBS Television while they were filming in the Gaza Strip. Cameraman Moshe Ben-Dor said the incident took place after they filmed troops hitting a Palestinian youth. Ben-Dor said he and soundman 'Ido Sela' were punched and kicked, and some of their equipment smashed. The CBS bureau chief in Israel lodged a sharp protest with the Israel Army spokesman. The Army spokesman said the soldiers involved in the attack had been identified and would be severely punished, and that an apology had been made to CBS.

Peres 'Dissatisfaction' With U.S. Position

TA281222 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Jan 88 p 1

[Report by Yosi Werther and Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The Alignment ministers yesterday expressed deep disappointment with the recent U.S. position expressed by Secretary of State George Shultz, according to which he prefers autonomy to an international conference.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 28 January in a report on the Alignment ministers' meeting on page one adds that "during yesterday's Alignment ministers session, the fear was expressed that the United States has coordinated its position with Shamir and has decided to favor the autonomy plan to negotiations with Jordan through an international conference. Shim'on Peres expressed great personal dissatisfaction over the latest reports."]

The Alignment ministers stated that they welcome the main points of Mubarak's plan. They said that "Shamir's moves are pushing the country in the PLO's direction and are helping out this organization with the Americans. Shamir is trying to disrupt the peace with the only Arab country with whom we have peace."

Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal sharply criticized the prime minister yesterday, saying that his refusal to accept political initiatives such as that of Mubarak "is a blunder greater than that of the Yom Kippur War." Shahal claims that we should not hesitate to create a government crisis over such an important issue as the peace process.

Senior Likud figures reacted yesterday: "Shahal is always the first one to spread slander and calumny which he himself does not believe." During the Likud ministers session yesterday, most of the speakers attacked Shim'on Peres and his policy.

Husayn Message to Shamir Rejects Autonomy Talks

TA281228 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Jan 88 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] In the past few days, Jordan conveyed a message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in which it rejects Shamir's proposal for resuming the autonomy negotiations. Husayn also said in this message that the condition for holding negotiations with Israel is the convening of an international conference with the participation of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The Jordanian message, which was conveyed to Jerusalem through a third party, came in response to messages sent by the prime minister to Husayn through foreign elements who visited Amman. Shamir proposed an immediate resumption of the autonomy talks, which stopped during March 1983, and reiterated his call for direct negotiations in the framework of a regional conference under U.S. auspices.

Labor Party's Hess Briefs Basyuni on Gaza Plan

TA271612 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
27 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] At a meeting with leaders of the Labor Party's confederal group headed by Arye Hess [a Labor Party Central Committee member], Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, said that the situation in the Gaza Strip is like a time bomb for Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinians. Despite this, Basyuni added, Egypt will not agree to any political plan for the Gaza Strip that does not include the West Bank or offer a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem.

At the outset of the meeting, Arye Hess briefed the Egyptian ambassador on his proposals for a Palestinian "city" state in the Gaza Strip, similar to Singapore, and for giving the Palestinians in the West Bank administrative self-rule as a first stage to a federation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip (a federal Palestinian state) that would be linked in a confederacy with Jordan and Israel.

Basyuni pointed out that Egypt would assist in achieving progress on the basis of this plan on the condition that initial agreement for it exists on the part of the PLO, Jordan, Israel, and Egypt. At the end of the meeting the participants discussed the possibility of a visit to Egypt by a delegation comprising members of the confederal group headed by Hess, aimed at holding meetings with Palestinian figures from the PLO as well as with Egyptian figures, during which the confederal group's plan will be discussed

Soviet Mideast Plan Seen Leading to 'Coercion'

TA251926 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 Jan 88 p A10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The First Attempt at Coercion"—passage in boldfact as published]

[Text] The same week that officials in Jerusalem rejoiced at the Soviet announcement approving the visit of an Israeli Foreign Ministry delegation to the Netherlands Embassy in Moscow, the Soviet foreign minister clarified to Israel the meaning of the promise that Israel would not be subjected to any coercion in an international conference.

In a letter to the UN Security Council, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze proposed that the superpowers' foreign ministers meet, in the framework of the Security Council, and set down the conference procedures. In other words: There is no need to ask for Israel's approval. It is possible to pressure it into consenting to this form of negotiations against its will, not by forcibly coercing Israel, simply by creating an international atmosphere implying that Israel is endangering peace.

After the Security Council's efforts to ensure a cease-fire in the Persian Gulf failed, it will attempt to promote its prestige in another part of the region. In a situation like this, Israel will find it difficult to put the brakes on propulsion toward the international minefield. The controversies within Israel may weaken its resistance, thus creating the dynamics that will push it down the slope of surrender to the demand presented by the burning tires referred to by the Soviet minister as a "popular uprising." The Soviet move was meant to push Israel into saying "amen" against its will. If the formula works once, there is no reason why the Soviet Union should abstain from applying it a second time to coerce Israel at the conference.

Andrey Gromyko promised Yitzhaq Shamir, and Shevardnadze promised Shim'on Peres, that the Soviet Union would not strive for a forced solution. Gromyko convinced Shamir that Israel would be able to quit the conference if its deliberations went beyond the bounds of what was agreed upon, and that there can be no conference without Israel.

Peres tried to obtain a pledge from the Americans that they, too, would abandon the conference if Israel quit. The Soviets are now trying to preempt possible developments by creating an atmosphere in which the Middle East conference, which is the Soviet Union's strategic goal, would appear as the only life preserver capable of saving peace in the Middle East. They are thus erecting a barrier aimed at preventing a U.S. withdrawal, while depriving Israel of all its options save surrender to the Palestinian demand for a state.

The Shevardnadze initiative is a duplicate of the Soviet move at the UN General Assembly in 1986. After Peres and Mubarak agreed in Alexandria to set up a preparatory committee for an international conference, the Soviet Union suddenly proposed that a committee comprising the five superpowers be set up within the framework of the Security Council to prepare the conference.

In December 1986, 124 countries voted in favor of the Soviet proposal, despite the fact that Mubarak had agreed with Peres that the preparatory committee should include only the parties to the conflict. Only three countries voted against the proposal and the United States sided with Israel to foil the realization of this resolution. The UN secretary general was consequently forced to report that not all the Security Council members accepted this move.

The Soviet Union did not despair. At a Kremlin dinner in honor of the Syrian president last April, Gorbachev declared: **"It would be no exaggeration to say that the majority of the international community supports such a conference. Even the United States and Israel cannot openly object to it any longer. The time has come to begin cautious preparatory work. The permanent members of the Security Council can assume the initiative for this matter."**

The Soviets are happy with the turnabout in U.S. public opinion. Two months ago, hundreds of thousands demonstrated in Washington against the oppression of Jews in the Soviet Union. Now the tables have been turned. Demonstrations are now staged protesting the oppression of Palestinians by the Jews. It seems that the distress of the Jews has been pushed to the sidelines. Furthermore, the international conference, previously a target of Soviet policy, has become the war-cry of the stonethrowers in the territories.

Less than 10 years after Camp David, Soviet diplomacy has succeeded in blocking any U.S. initiative by rendering the Soviet option for an international conference the only possibility for peace in the area. The trutn of the matter is that the intoxication of the PLO from the ripples created by the war of stones can push it into a fiercer struggle to accompany the conference, if it convenes, with blood and fire.

Mubarak knows that this is what can be expected when the conference gets into high gear. He learned this from President al-Sadat's maneuvers on the eve of the Yom Kippur War, which he based on the assumption that it was necessary to prepare the area for political negotiations, and therefore rushed to propose a 6-month truce on the eve of the conference.

Yet Mubarak's proposal constitutes something of a demand that Israel yield in advance. The PLO will put an end to the stone throwing incidents for 6 months in return for an Israeli commitment to include the PLO in the conference—which in fact is tantamount to recognition of that organization. Israel will likewise undertake to endorse the equation that Molotov cocktails and the settlements are on a par.

Mubarak is trying to exploit the internal argument over the settlements to contribute toward boosting the PLO's prestige and to extract Israeli recognition. Ostensibly, it would seem that the plan is geared to please U.S. ears, but in fact this is Mubarak's way of repaying the Soviet Union for writing off Egypt's debts. Mubarak is helping Gorbachev attain the goals of his client, the PLO, whose terrorists train in the Soviet Union and whose weapons come from Soviet bloc countries.

Accepting Mubarak's and Shevardnadze's proposals might cement the international straitjacket that will encumber Israel, leaving it with no choice but to succumb to the threat of stones—under the honorable guise of an international conference. The Soviet plan to push the wheels of the conference forward, using the Security Council as a vehicle, in spite of Israel's opposition indicates the direction and secret intentions of the Soviets. A clear and unequivocal Israeli reaction could provide support for the United States in voicing its fervent rejection—once again—of the stones thrown today at Jerusalem both in Moscow and in Cairo.

Shamir 'Neglect' of Political Initiatives Noted

TA250841 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jan 88 p 8

[Editorial: "No Answering Service"]

[Text] It is probably not much of an exaggeration to assert that it is easier today for Israel's foreign minister to deal with the president of Egypt than with his own prime minister in Jerusalem. Thus, Mr Peres sent his chief emissary to meet with Mr Mubarak's top aide, in advance of the Egyptian leader's forthcoming visit to Washington, without bothering to first inform Mr Shamir.

President Mubarak is expected to press the Reagan administration to bestir itself, elections or no elections, on behalf of an "international conference." The status quo, now symbolized by young Palestinians throwing stones and young Israeli soldiers wielding clubs, does not, after all, make it simpler for Mr Mubarak to defend the peace with Israel against his critics at home.

And Mr Peres, despite his lip service to the Rabin-Shamir formula that civil order must be restored before any political initiatives, would be pleased if Mr Mubarak succeeded where he failed, namely to ignite some active U.S. diplomacy on behalf of such a conference. Since the Soviets have in the meantime chimed in with a conference proposal tailored to their own interests, the Reagan people may conclude that they can no longer afford simply to wait it out until November when they can bequeath the Israel-Arab mess to their successors.

Yet neither Mr Mubarak nor Mr Peres have reason to unduly raise their hopes. The Reagan administration has woven together an elaborate theory to justify inaction. There is, first of all, the divided Israel government. Pressing for a conference would not move Mr Shamir. It might even cause Israeli voters to reelect him. Of course, not pressing for it might also cause voters to defeat Mr Peres. But, in any case, it is not America's job to save Israel from itself. And then there are the Russians. A conference would benefit them, so why have it?

There are no signs that Washington has been moved out of this logic by the disagreeable footage from Jabalyah or Ramallah on American TV screens. Moreover, in March Mr Shamir will arrive in the U.S. capital. After that Husayn could come. By then, November would be that much nearer.

A closer Israeli look at all this Shamir-induced benign neglect by the Reagan administration, especially in the prime minister's office where it is applauded as a major victory, should, however, occasion some second thoughts.

The U.S., under Mr Reagan, has indeed been a supreme friend. A new administration in 1989, whatever the party, will inevitably uncork some vigorous diplomatic effort. Chances are it will be on behalf of a conference, an idea that won't go away.

Would it not, therefore, be to Israel's advantage to set this process in motion now under the friendly and cautious Reagan administration rather than leave it to a new White House anxious to make its mark and without the shadow of a coming election to constrain it?

But, intoxicated by the status quo, no one in the Shamir orbit is prepared to entertain such reasoning. And, it would be a sell out to Mr Peres. Better then to hold onto the charms of today than consider the avalanche of tomorrow.

UN Ambassador Discusses Report on Territories

TA230549 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Interview with Israel's UN Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu by reporter Nisim Mish'al in New York; date not given—videorecorded]

[Text] [Mish'al] Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu, what is your reaction to the UN secretary general's report on the territories?

[Netanyahu] This report is extremely biased. It is written with a great deal of sophistication. It provides all the Arab arguments and some of ours, and in fact gives extensive space to the wildest possible accusations against us. This does not surprise me. The United Nations, including the Security Council, has begun a pattern of backing any Arab violence against us and of condemning any reaction by us. I think that even if we welcomed the Molotov cocktails with bouquets of flowers, they would have still found a way to denounce us in such a report.

[Mish'al] You have to agree though, Mr Netanyahu, that the report is very harsh. It contains harsh descriptions of Israel's policy in the territories. Do you not attach any significance to this?

[Netanyahu] The report contains harsh and distorted descriptions, but I believe its main significance lies in two other aspects. The first aspect is that there is, surprisingly enough, a positive implication. The report is trying to introduce all sorts of measures to involve the Security Council in the security issue in Judaea and Samaria. One such measure is raised in reference to observers. The report, however, ultimately recognizes the fact that only Israel is responsible for security in the territories. The second aspect is a dangerous and grave one: The report prepares the ground for the convening of the Security Council in order to discuss a UN-sponsored international conference.

[Mish'al] Has this move been coordinated with the Soviets? Do you think there were contacts with the United States? After all, the United States supports the general idea of the international conference.

[Netanyahu] One should understand that this report cannot be viewed separately from everything else that has happened. In recent weeks the Soviets have conducted an intensive campaign which reached its peak yesterday. In a letter, Eduard Shevardnadze called for the Security Council to convene immediately in order to adopt the international conference idea. The goal of this call is a conference which will impose a UN-sponsored solution convenient for the Soviets. This is not acceptable to Israel or the United States.

[Mish'al] I assume, though, that there will be a majority, if not a unanimity of support in the Security Council for this proposal of imposing or convening an international conference.

[Netanyahu] I think that the United States has expressed its opposition to such a move in the past, and I have no doubt that it will do so again. Moreover, the United States is aware of the fact that we are witnessing a larger Soviet move here. We are a small part in the context of a general policy. Gorbachev declared a policy under which he wants to enter different conflict regions: Cyprus, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East; a policy of entering different conflict regions through possible Security Council moves, through the stationing of international forces which will include Soviet and other forces. In other words, the United States has opposed this general move very firmly, and is opposed to the specific move concerning our case with no less firmness. I have no reason to think it will change its position.

MAPAM Leader Cited on Palestinian Solution

PM271436 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 25 Jan 88 p 6

[Interview with MAPAM Secretary General Elazar Granot by Giancarlo Lannutti in Tel Aviv; date not given]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv—"The 100,000-strong demonstration was a clear expression of the desire of a sector of the Israeli population for a change in the government's policy. I do not mean that this pressure can bring about a change on its own but it does undoubtedly strengthen those within the majority who want something different to happen within this tragicomic government." This was said by Elazar Granot, since 1985, secretary general of MAPAM—a traditional left-wing Socialist grouping and the first Zionist party to include Arab candidates in its electoral lists for parliament.

[Lannutti] So there needs to be a change, but in what direction?

[Granot] There cannot be a change confined within Israel's borders. The key is in the hands of the superpowers, and I deliberately mean both of them. The USSR can now assume a role that it could not have performed some months ago. This is important because nothing can happen if it continues to play the same game, with the same rules, which are no longer valid. If the United States remains Israel's mainstay, and the USSR remains the Arabs' and Palestinians' mainstay, we cannot change the tragic events that we are experiencing.

[Lannutti] What, then, do you expect from the United States and the USSR?

[Granot] Imagination and courage are needed. Both superpowers must cross a borderline. The Americans must cross the borderline in the Palestinians' direction by recognizing their right to self-determination and to be represented by whoever they want. On the other hand, the Soviets must take this real opportunity to return to the Middle Eastern arena (not as weapons suppliers) and must therefore cross the border and meet Israel half way.

[Lannutti] What is happening in the occupied territories? How will the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank respond?

[Granot] If the superpowers cross that border, the PLO can ask the Palestinians to suspend their revolt because there will then be specific political prospects. People in the occupied territories will know they have a future and can start seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

[Lannutti] Is the essential requirement still a direct dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians?

[Granot] Of course it is the only chance. Brute force will not resolve any of the problems and will not grant Israel control over the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza. I only have to consider what I would do in their place. I would revolt, as they are doing, and would not accept a situation of that kind, which offers absolutely no prospects. [passage omitted]

Peres is not the same as Shamir. He is a tragic figure. He wasted his 2 years as prime minister. If he now believes he can negotiate with Palestinians not belonging to the PLO he is deluding himself. I may not like 'Arafat, but we cannot presume to choose our own interlocutors. Peace must be negotiated with your enemies, not your friends. [passage omitted]

'Breaking Arms, Spirits' No Solution to Unrest

TA260813 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 24 Jan 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Killings and Beatings Are Not Answer"]

[Text] The stone-throwing and the strikes will not lead anywhere, Israeli officials told the Palestinian people. If there is to be progress on the Palestinian issue, then stop all signs of protests, they demanded.

We would like to believe these officials. But from past experience, we have learned better. The West Bank and Gaza Strip were relatively quiet for 20 years, yet Israel did not seem interested in reaching a settlement. It kept on turning down all opportunities for peace, believing that as a dominant power and winner of many previous wars, it did not have to make concessions.

Israel's lack of seriousness in what it says is reflected in the way it is handling the protests. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin ordered his men to beat Palestinian youths and elders on every part of their bodies, inflicting heavy bodily damage, including broken arms and legs. If these people won't stop throwing stones on their own, Rabin warned, then the Israeli army will break their arms and legs and thus they will be made unable to throw rocks.

So Rabin is determined to quell the protests by all means at his disposal regardless of the severity of the measures. Then he comes and appeals for quiet and order so that the peace process can be started. How can Rabin expect these humiliated and severely beaten people to forgive him and the army and sit and talk with Israel about peace and coexistence?

The protests started this violence because of the mistreatment of the Palestinian population by the Israeli occupiers. If the Palestinians had sensed earlier that Israel was serious about reaching a settlement, then there would naturally have been progress, not deterioration of the situation.

Israel needs to rethink its policy in the occupied areas and with regard to the Palestinian question in general. Force, breaking arms spirits, coercion and threats, will not lead anywhere. This is what Israel needs to understand and work on; not burying its head in the sand, assuming everything will return to normal once several arms and legs are broken.

PLO To Sail Deported Palestinians Toward Coast

TA270822 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jan 88 p 1

[Report by Michel Zlotowski]

[Text] Paris—The PLO plans to place some 200 Palestinians who have been expelled from the West Bank and Gaza on a ship that will sail towards Israel, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

The ship, named Al-'Awadah ("The Return"), is expected to sail within a fortnight, probably from a Greek port, THE POST was told.

The Palestinians, including Anglican Bishop Iliya Khuri and Shaykh Rajab al-Tamimi, are to be joined by European and North American personalities. Among the French participants will be the bishop of Evreux, Jacques Gaillot, and politician Yves Guena of Premier Jacques Chirac's Gaullist Rally Party.

The expelled Palestinians say they plan to ask to be allowed to return home when the ship reaches Israel.

Cabinet Briefed on Methods Used To Quell Riots

TA271227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1145 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The Inner Cabinet met this morning and heard reports from the defense minister and the minister of police on the situation in the territories.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 27 January reports that the Inner Cabinet was briefed "on the number of dead and wounded among the local population, as well as on the means used to quell the riots."]

Knesset reporter Jack Katzenell says there were no violent disagreements at the meeting.

Tomorrow the Inner Cabinet is holding an extra meeting of 4 hours because for the past few weeks it has dealt exclusively with the disturbances in the territories. A large number of political and security issues have accumulated on its agenda.

Reports on Events, Unrest in Territories

Youth Beaten by Soldiers Dies

TA281434 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Ramallah—The youth Fayiq Falifal, a resident of the Al-Am'ari refugee camp who was being treated in the Ramallah hospital, died yesterday as a result of beatings inflicted by soldiers 2 days ago.

Bar-Lev Tours Nabulus; Riots

TA281157 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev toured Nabulus today. Youths began to demonstrate after Bar-Lev left Clock Square in the downtown area, and soldiers were forced to fire tear gas at them. The minister later visited the 'Askar refugee camp where several stones were thrown at his entourage.

The minister confirmed to journalists that additional detention centers will soon be set up in Judaea and Samaria because of overcrowding in prisons. Referring to the iron fist policy, the minister said the choice of words is unfortunate and only reasonable force is being used.

[Begin Bar-Lev recording] I am not dealing with declarations and expressions. This expression is incorrect and unfortunate. There is no policy of beating people just for the sake of it. I know this firsthand with regard to the police, and with regard to the army I know this from what I heard from the defense minister and from what I heard today from army personnel here during this visit. The policy is to use reasonable force when the situation warrants it. For instance, if calls to break up an illegal street demonstration and stone throwing are not heeded, tear gas or force should be used. [end recording]

Curfew on Qabatiyah 28 Jan

TA280531 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The town of Qabatiyah in Samaria was put under curfew early this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that there have been many disturbances in this town over the past few weeks. The curfew on the village of Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta in the Ramalla area and on Si'ir in the Hebron area remains in effect.

Bus Set on Fire in Tulkarm

TA280920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] An Israeli bus which came to transport workers to their places of employment in Israel was set on fire in the village of (Al-'Ar) in the Tulkarm district. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that unidentified people stopped the bus, forced the driver and passengers out, and set the bus on fire.

Several buses have been set on fire in Judaea and Samaria in the past few days. Security sources say that the terrorist organizations are trying to disrupt the flow of workers to Israel.

Shops were closed in Ramallah and Al-Birah this morning. Commercial life is normal in Nabulus and Qalqilyah. Our correspondent reports that Thursday's cattle market at the entrance to the Balatah refugee camp is very crowded this morning.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the Gaza Strip is calm this morning, and workers left for work in Israel.

Update on Number of Arrests

TA271829 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Some 129 inhabitants of the territories have been placed under administrative arrest since the riots began on 9 December: 111 in Judea and Samaria, and 18 in the Gaza Strip. In total, 1,753 inhabitants of the territories have been arrested in the last 50 days: 577 of them have already been sentenced to prison for having taken part in the disturbances.

West Bank Construction Requests Approved

TA272115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria has approved about 500 requests for construction in the rural sector there. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in a discussion that took place at the beginning of this week it was decided to approve all the requests submitted through the local construction committees. These requests and others to be submitted via the committees in the future will receive accelerated treatment. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this constitutes a change in comparison with the Civilian Administration's policy of last year.

Clash With 'Terrorists' in Lebanon Confirmed

TA261530 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] According to news agency reports, three Hizballah terrorists were killed in southern Lebanon while our forces did not sustain any casualties. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports:

News agencies have been reporting that the terrorists were killed when IDF soldiers opened fire near Kafr Rumman, on the edge of the security zone. The terrorists were members of the Hizballah organization.

Security forces have confirmed that before midnight last night an IDF unit, which was engaged in routine security tasks in the security zone, noticed suspicious people moving on the edge of the security zone. The soldiers opened fire at the suspects who began running away. Blood traces were found on the scene, attesting to the fact that the terrorists sustained casualties. An RPG launcher was also found on the site. As said, news agencies have been reporting about three dead terrorists.

Alignment Ministers Attack Likud 'Nyet' Policy

TA280613 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Last night the Alignment ministers held a lengthy session which lasted deep into the night. During the meeting there was a sharp attack on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud. Our correspondent Razi Barqay has the details:

The Alignment ministers attacked the Likud policy, but did not draw the practical conclusion of leaving the government—this is the gist of the discussion held last night at Shim'on Peres' residence. The Alignment ministers said that the Americans must realize that Yitzhaq Shamir's accelerated autonomy plan is his private plan and has not been brought before the Cabinet. Therefore, it must not be regarded as the plan of the Israeli Government.

Shim'on Peres spoke in favor of the Jordanian option, because this is the only guarantee that no Palestinian state will be established in the territories. Yitzhaq Rabin also emphasized the need for a political move. The defense minister said that the events of the last few weeks stem from despair and hopelessness among the Palestinians.

One of the ministers raised the possibility of drawing the conclusions in light of what he termed the intolerable situation in the government. He was told that leaving the government would mean leaving security in Sharon's hands and the police in those of Roni Milo. Minister Moshe Shahal even used a term from the Alignment leaders' past: He chose to call Shamir's nyet policy a blunder which is even worse than the Yom Kippur blunder.

'Amirav Efforts 'No Place' in Herut Party

TA270622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Herut Central Committee member Moshe 'Amirav resigned last night, after a Likud court voted to strip him of his party posts. 'Amirav has been accused of violating party ideology by meeting with representatives of the PLO and advocating broad autonomy for the administered territories. Sabra Chartrand reports:

[Begin recording] Moshe 'Amirav vowed he would tear up his Herut membership card if he was stripped of his party posts, and he did. After 4 hours of deliberations, two of the five judges trying 'Amirav recommended he be expelled from the party. The remaining three advised that his right to hold representative posts in Herut be terminated. A long statement read by the judges and berating 'Amirav for his political activities, including his support for autonomy in the territories—termed the nearest suggestion to a Palestinian state yet heard—concluded: All of his efforts are contradictory to the consensus of the movement and have no place in the party. The majority decision, 'Amirav said afterwards, was one he could not accept. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PLO's 'Abbas, Al-Hurani Arrive for Talks

JN271613 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas and 'Abdallah al-Hurani arrived in Amman this afternoon to hold talks with the Jordanian Government.

They were received at the airport by Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin and Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabih al-Nimr. They were also received by 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and PLO representative in Amman.

Talks Begin

JN271818 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Talks began at the Prime Ministry this evening between the Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Palestinian side led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin, Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah, and Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani.

On the Palestinian side the talks were attended by PLO Executive Committee members 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, 'Abdallah al-Hurani, and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya.

French Minister Arrives, Meets With King

JN272031 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening Edouard Balladur, French minister of economy, finance, and privatization. Balladur conveyed a message to his majesty from His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand on developments in the Middle East, the Iraq-Iran war, and bilateral relations. Balladur and his majesty also discussed these same topics.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, Jordan's finance minister, the French ambassador in Amman, and the members of the delegation of the guest minister.

The French economy, finance, and privatization minister arrived in Amman this evening on a 3-day official visit to Jordan. In a press statement he read upon arrival at Amman airport, Balladur said he is happy to visit Jordan, a country with a rich history. He also paid tribute to Jordan's important role in bringing about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. He described the friendly bilateral relations as excellent and said the two countries share the same interests, especially regarding the issue of ending the crises facing the region. He added his country is interested in developing all aspects of its relations with Jordan.

Balladur went on to say his visit to Jordan falls within this framework. He also said France is interested in supporting the Jordanian economy. He added his visit to Jordan takes place at a time when the region is witnessing important developments, saying events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip worry the French Government. He added his country has condemned the Israeli acts of violence and deportation. He pointed out that current events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip stress the pressing need to end the Middle East conflict through peaceful means and with the acceptance of all parties concerned.

Balladur said his country's stand toward the means to end this conflict is well-known and goes in harmony with Jordan's stand. He said he will reiterate to Jordanian officials his country's stand toward the Iraq-Iran war which calls for ending it through peaceful means. He added he will also reiterate to them his country will intensify its efforts at the UN Security Council to end to this tragic war.

The French minister was welcomed at the airport by Finance Minister Dr Hanna 'Awdah, the French ambassador in Amman, and the embassy staff.

Tunisia's Baccouche Details Talks With King

JN261424 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche has said: We in Tunisia—president, government, and people—harbor all respect and esteem for His Majesty King Husayn because of his majesty's pan-Arab stands which seek to unify Arab stands so the Arabs can confront the challenges facing the Arab nation.

In a statement to PETRA-JNA before leaving Amman today, Hedi Baccouche added: We are looking forward to a visit by His Majesty King Husayn. His Excellency President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali has extended him an invitation to visit Tunisia. Hedi Baccouche described Jordanian-Tunisian relations as strong and constantly developing. He said he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i on efforts by Arab leaders, especially by His Majesty King Husayn, to preserve the spirit of the Amman summit.

He also pointed out that Tunisia supports the tendencies which surfaced at the summit of reconciliation and accord. These tendencies depicted the Arab nation as one that can show solidarity in confronting the challenges facing it, especially the Iraq-Iran war.

He said His Majesty King Husayn has blessed the tendencies which we are demonstrating in the Arab Maghreb. These tendencies seek to bring about a spirit of good neighborliness and solidarity among all Arab states.

He said the depth and comprehensiveness of His Majesty King Husayn's perspective allows every official to have a full and sound vision regarding the Arab nation's affairs.

Baccouche added that Tunisia believes that all issues of the Arab nation, especially in the Arab East, have an effect on the march of all Arabs whether they live in the Arab Maghreb or the Arab East. He went on to say Tunisia is conducting dialogues and consultations with the brethren in the Arab East on various Arab issues. He said: Tunisia affirms its solidarity with the Arab states in the face of all the dangers threatening them, as this affirmation of solidarity was the first result sought and achieved during our visit to the Arabian Gulf states.

Money for Striking West Bank Lawyers Released

JN272034 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received at his office this afternoon Husayn Mujalli, president of the Lawyers Association, and a delegation representing the West Bank's lawyers comprising Walid al-'Asali, Jamil al-Rimawi, and Kamal Hassunah. They came from the West Bank to discuss the issue of the support being provided by the Jordanian Government to the West Bank lawyers who have been on strike since 1967.

In light of the discussions held with the lawyers, the prime minister has decided to release the amounts that the Jordanian Government pays to the West Bank lawyers to bolster the kinfolk's steadfastness on their land.

Further Reportage on West Beirut Kidnapping

German Citizen Identified

NC271246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1150 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Ralph Schray was kidnapped at 1015 this morning. Schray, who was born in 1957, holds German citizenship, has a Lebanese mother, and works as an engineer with a Lebanese company. He recently married a teacher from the Louis Fregman [as heard] School.

Gunmen riding in a white Mercedes and a red Renault 18 kidnapped Schray. George Abu Nassar, owner of a sports swimming pool, is the kidnapped person's uncle [mother's brother].

Hamadahs' Brother Accused

NC271943 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] A relative of West German national Ralph Schray, who was kidnapped in West Beirut today, has stated that the third Hamadah brother abducted him. Schray's relative, who has asked not to be identified, told REUTER that a senior official from a Shi'ite militia told him that 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, a Hizballah official, gave the order to kidnap Schray in order to exert pressure on Bonn to release his two younger brothers, Muhammad 'Ali and 'Abbas Hamadah. The relative quoted the senior Shi'ite official as saying: We obtained information a month ago that they were looking for a German national to kidnap but had not found anyone.

'High-Ranking' Iranians Arrive

NC272240 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that an Iranian delegation has hastily arrived in Beirut. The delegation's trip has been kept secret.

According to our information, the delegation is now in Beirut's southern suburb and consists of three Iranian officers, including the director of Iranian intelligence and a high-ranking official of the Revolutionary Guard.

Syrians Send Ultimatum

NC281035 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The Syrians have sent a strongly-worded ultimatum to Hizballah to release German detainee Ralph Schray. The Voice of Lebanon has received information that the Syrian military command in West Beirut sent an ultimatum to Hizballah at midnight last night demanding the release of Schray within 48 hours. According to this information, the ultimatum was conveyed to the third Hamadah brother, to Hizballah officials, and to the Iranian delegation that arrived in the southern suburb last night on a mission believed to be connected with the kidnapping.

Syrians Storm Hizballah Hideouts

NC281231 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1222 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] According to security sources in West Beirut, Syrian patrols searching for the abducted German stormed pro-Iran Hizballah hideouts in West Beirut today. The Syrian storming operations took place in Zuqaq al-Balat and Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq.

We have learned that the abducted German is still in West Beirut, specifically in the hotel area, which is under the control of the Syrian forces. According to security reports from West Beirut, the measures that the Syrian forces have adopted in areas leading to the southern suburb have thus far prevented the kidnappers from transporting their victim to the southern suburb.

Paqraduni Implicates Hamadah

NC281310 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The FRG ambassador in Beirut today met with Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces. The ambassador said the Syrians had told him that the Syrian Government is seeking to secure the release of the German hostages.

According to our correspondent John Munayyar, the FRG ambassador said today that the identity of the kidnappers of Ralph Schray has not yet been determined. Attorney Paqraduni disclosed that FRG hostage Ralph Schray was kidnapped by 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah and that he is now in the southern suburb. Paqraduni said that Syria cannot even prevent the kidnapping of foreigners in the area it controls. [passage omitted]

More on Kidnapping, Search

NC281315 Paris AFP in English 1251 GMT 28 Jan 88

[By Acil Tabbara]

[Excerpt] Beirut, Jan 28 (AFP)—A senior Syrian Army officer is personally leading an investigation into the abduction of West German engineer Ralph Schray in Syrian-controlled West Beirut, Lebanese security sources said Thursday.

Syrian security forces here said earlier they were indirectly applying pressure on the kidnappers to ensure a hasty release of Mr. Schray.

General 'Ali Hammud, who commands a 10,000-man Syrian force that deployed in mostly Moslem West Beirut last February, is in charge of the inquiry, a Lebanese security source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The disclosure came as Mr. Schray's wife, Rana Mulla Schray, pleaded for his release, saying he was "more Lebanese" than she is.

Mrs. Schray, a Lebanese Moslem, was speaking to reporters following a press report here that the family had been told that Mr. Schray's abduction had been ordered by 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, brother of two Lebanese held in West German jails.

"I don't know who kidnapped him or why, but I implore his abductors to release him," Mrs. Schray said. "He has lived in Lebanon since his birth... He has never met his father who lives in Germany and does not even speak German," the young woman, who has been wed five months, said. Mr. Shray's mother is Lebanese.

A militia leader here who declined to be named said that 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah returned to Beirut two months ago from Iran, where he visited his family.

Mr. Schray, 31, was walking to work along a main commercial street in West Beirut when armed men, some posing as policemen, seized him Wednesday and then sped off in three cars, past Syrian checkpoints, investigators said.

No group has claimed responsibility for his abduction.

Security sources here said Syrian troops, who had urged Westerners to return to West Beirut after their deployment there, considered the abduction an affront to their presence and planned to deal with it as they did when U.S. journalist Charles Glass was seized last June.

Mr. Glass was snatched near a Syrian Army checkpoint on the southern outskirts of Beirut, prompting a massive Syrian manhunt in the western half of the Lebanese capital. Two months later he emerged from captivity and the United States thanked Syria for its role in his return to freedom.

Ten days ago Syrian security forces informed the West German Embassy here that a serious threat loomed over West German nationals residing in West Beirut, the Lebanese source said. [passage omitted]

Iran, Syria Dispute Over Hizballah Members

NC271409 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Hizballah, Iran, and Syria have not resolved the issue of returning Hizballah members 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah and 'Imad Mughaniyah from Iran. Syria had requested that Iran hand them over to it in order to try them for their involvement in explosions and attacks against the Syrian forces in West Beirut.

Hizballah has denied that the accused have been arrested in Iran, affirming that they are still in the Iranian capital for security reasons, which prevent their return to Beirut. Hizballah says that Syria wants Hamadah and Mughaniyah for their collaboration with the pro-'Arafat Fatah and for joining 'Arafat supporter Colonel Hawari and 'Abd al-Latif al-Sulh [not further identified] in their attack on the Syrian forces.

According to information circulated in Beirut, Iran is aware of Syria's difficult economic situation, and was therefore surprised by the Syrians' entry into West Beirut in 1987. According to this information, the Iranian rulers still resent the Fathallah Barracks incident in Al-Bastah [in West Beirut]. Reports say that Tehran recently issued a postage stamp commemorating the Fathallah Barracks martyrs. The report adds that Tehran believes that Syrian actions, as well as President al-Asad's stand in support of the Arabs at the Amman summit, have been at Iran's expense. Iran has begun to cooperate openly with other groups against President al-Asad.

The reports also emphasize the issue of an arrest warrant against Mughaniyah on charges of devising a new plan to resist the Syrian presence in West Beirut.

Soviet Envoy Says Uprising 'Will Continue'

NC271850 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Vasiliy Kolutusha has stated that information available to him from Palestinian organizations and the declared stands of the Palestinians in the occupied territories confirm that the uprising will continue for a long time.

Kolotusha, who was speaking to the AL-MASHRIQ NEWS AGENCY, added that even if the uprising ends in 1 week, 1 month, or more, it nevertheless has established a new situation that cannot be ignored; namely, that action must be taken on all levels to end the Israeli occupation and restore the Palestinian people's rights.

Security Posts Become Operational in Camps

NC280728 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The two Internal Security Forces posts in Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila camps became operational this morning after they were supplied with the necessary equipment to serve the inhabitants of the two camps. Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi has stated that the decision to establish the two posts is a Lebanese one, affecting Lebanese territory.

Israeli Warplanes Fly Over Sidon 27 Jan

NC271753 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1745 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] At 1800 today, Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the camps and were confronted by anti-aircraft fire.

Flights Continue; Alert Noted

NC272020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] According to reports from the south, a formation of Zionist warplanes has been flying over the south on reconnaissance sorties at low altitude since 1500 today. The enemy planes are drawing anti-aircraft fire. A state of alert has been prevailing in the south as a precaution against any eventuality.

9 February Unit Claims Attack on Syrian Center

NC271222 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi Unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive device in a Syrian center at the Dayr 'Ashash intersection on the Al-Dinniyah Road in the north. The center's personnel sustained a number of casualties.

Amal, Palestinians Exchange Fire; Tension Noted

NC271828 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Nothing new has developed in the situation east of Sidon following the Amal Movement's decision to lift the siege on the Palestinian camps, and efforts are continuing to bring about withdrawal of Palestinians from the area. According to reports from the area, an exchange of automatic weapons' fire took place today on the Maghdushah-Mariya combat lines between Amal Movement and Palestinian positions. No casualties have been reported.

Meanwhile, a state of extreme tension prevails on the combat lines of Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir, east of Sidon. Popular Liberation Army forces are exchanging sporadic machinegun and rocket fire with agent Lahd militiamen.

Statement Issued on Death of Amal Fighter

NC271909 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal has announced that one of its fighters was martyred in an encounter with the occupation forces and their agents in the Maydun-Jabbur area in the south yesterday.

In a statement issued today, Amal said: On 26 January, a group of fighters from the Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal was conducting a reconnaissance operation in the Maydun-Jabbur area in western Al-Biqa' when it was ambushed by the Zionist enemy and agent Lahd forces. A 30-minute clash ensued in which heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy. The resistance lost one fighter during this clash, Kamal al-Laqqis.

The funeral of martyr Al-Laqqis took place yesterday in his hometown of Al-'Ayn, in the Ba'labakk district, in the presence of members of the Amal Movement Command in Al-Biqa' and other areas.

'Usayran Views Helicopter Hijacking, Polls

PM271033 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Jan 88 p 19

[Interview with Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran by Samir Mansur in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] While PSP leader Minister Walid Junblatt was honoring officer Karami [hijacker of an Army helicopter] at Al-Mukhtarah Palace and announcing the presentation of the helicopter as a gift to the 11th Brigade in Hammana, AL-HAWADITH visited [Defense Minister] 'Usayran at his home in Al-Rumaylah. 'Usayran began by asking: "Is there any news concerning the helicopter?"

[AL-HAWADITH] We have come to ask you about that!

['Usayran] "I have no news. My telephone has been cut off."

Then the following dialogue took place!

AL-HAWADITH: What is the outcome of the contacts regarding the helicopter?

'Usayran: I have no knowledge that the helicopter affair has come to an end and that the helicopter has been returned to the Army. It appears that the matter has ended and that our friend Walid Junblatt has decided to return it to the 11th Brigade. That means that the matter has ended, and it is not the intention of the prime minister or the Army command to take the matter any further. The operation was not premeditated; therefore, the matter has ended quickly.

AL-HAWADITH: Is it over for both sides?

'Usayran: Yes, I think so, because my information is that the two sides want to end the matter of the helicopter and to turn to the major issue: to end the war and the conflicts among the sons of the same country, and to work for harmony and the liberation of Lebanon from all that has happened.

AL-HAWADITH: The matter has also ended so far as the president of the Republic is concerned?

'Usayran: I do not know. However, I do not think that his excellency the president of the Republic is asking for more than that.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Army's decision with respect to the blockade?

'Usayran: It has decided on a sea blockade and not on a land blockade.

AL-HAWADITH: How can the decision be reversed?

'Usayran: The matter has finished, and there is no longer a need to carry out any action.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the private ports which the blockade encompasses?

'Usayran: Where?

AL-HAWADITH: Khaldah and Al-Jiyah.

'Usayran: The Al-Jiyah port is functioning. I have no knowledge about the Khaldah port, but I think it is the same as the Al-Jiyah port.

AL-HAWADITH: Are we to understand from your words that the blockade is as good as over?

'Usayran: It has been cancelled.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Army command's decision to reject the return of the helicopter except to the Adma base?

'Usayran: This is an issue which concerns the Army. They deal with the matter among themselves.

AL-HAWADITH: Have there been direct contacts between you and President of the Republic Amin al-Jumayyil, or between you and Minister Walid Junblatt concerning the helicopter?

'Usayran: Direct contacts have not taken place. However, indirect contacts have taken place with the two.

AL-HAWADITH: Were you informed of the Army command's decision immediately after it was made?

'Usayran: Prime Minister Al-Huss and I are agreed for better or for worse.

AL-HAWADITH: In your opinion, how significant was the step taken by the officer who flew the helicopter?

'Usayran: I think that the operation was spontaneous and that the young man who did what he did was not able to get rid of the matter. He found himself in a corner and wanted a way out.

AL-HAWADITH: Let us turn to another subject. There is talk of a new cabinet. What information do you have?

'Usayran: With respect to the government, starting with the acting prime minister, we consider ourselves to have resigned from office and we welcome the formation of a new government by any group, and we hope that this burden will disappear from our shoulders so that we can pursue our work and help our country all we can.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you think that the date for the presidential elections will go well?

'Usayran: I do not have anything which indicates that the presidential election date will not go well, and I think that the country as a whole wants this matter to end and a new president to be elected. Maybe a new president could be better able to solve the problems than anyone else. This is the hope, or shall we say this is the desire. However, it is also an optimistic outlook for the best, and it is not a censure of anyone.

AL-HAWADITH: A lot is being said about [National Bloc leader] Raymond Iddih.

'Usayran: There is a welcome for Raymond Iddih, and he has qualities which deserve the country's best welcome. He possesses composure, strength, foresight, and the knowledge of what he is capable of doing in shouldering this burden in the best way.

AL-HAWADITH: Are there efforts to find a solution to the problem of the crossings between the two halves of the capital?

'Usayran: I do not see the continuation of all these crossings as they are. The government can liberate these crossings one after another until people can enjoy their freedom and believe that salvation has finally come, and that the country has returned to what it was previously, in security, peace, and the desire for cooperation.

AL-HAWADITH: How can the crossings be liberated?

'Usayran: It is essential to search for the crossings which are least congested with people and do away with them until all the crossings are done away with.

AL-HAWADITH: The answer is not clear—how?

'Usayran: For example the museum crossing sees a lot of traffic, so open another crossing. Anyway, this matter is up to the security men; they know more about ways of solving the problem.

AL-HAWADITH: As defense minister, tell us why the practice of taking names is not abolished at Army checkpoints and the matter left up to whoever wants to cross in his car?

'Usayran: This practice ought to be ended.

AL-HAWADITH: There is more anxiety than ever before among the Lebanese over their destiny, the destiny of the homeland in its entirety, especially if presidential elections are not held. What is your opinion?

'Usayran: I do not think so. I think that the presidential elections will take place as scheduled and that the country is longing for a new strong, savior president who is capable of rallying the nation, ending the crisis, and opening the way for people to live with one another, so that Lebanon remains a country of coexistence for all sects and a meeting place for all religions.

Paqraduni: 'No Solution' Before 'Liberation'
NC230921 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 0830 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] On the political scene, the deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, Attorney Karim Paqraduni, has reaffirmed the Lebanese Forces attitude that there could never be a solution in Lebanon before liberation. He said liberation meant the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanese territory.

In an interview with the Arabic-language weekly AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, Attorney Paqraduni said a solution meant entente, and entente should be based on an essential factor; namely, liberation. So our slogan is entente over liberation, said Mr Paqraduni.

Concerning the coming presidential elections, the deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces affirmed that the Lebanese Forces would support the candidate who endorses the project of no solution before liberation. We have informed all Western capitals and decision-makers in the world that this was our project, he concluded.

Al-Shar' Receives Hungary's Gyula Horn 27 Jan

JN272040 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Gyula Horn, state secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hungary this evening. The meeting was attended by Diya'ullah al-Fattah, assistant foreign minister; the chief of the Eastern European Desk at the Foreign Ministry; the chief of the Middle East Desk; the chief of the Asian Desk; and the Hungarian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks revolved around the brave popular uprising in the occupied Arab territory against the Israeli occupation forces, the current developments in the region, and the situation in the Arabian Gulf.

Further on Visit by CSSR's Vasil Bilak

Received by Al-Asad

JN261608 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus—At 1200 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Vasil Bilak, member of the Central Committee Presidium and secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ], and his accompanying delegation.

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the Czechoslovak ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. Bilak conveyed to his excellency the president the greetings of the Czechoslovak leadership. His excellency the president accepted these greetings and asked him to convey similar greetings and wishes to the Czechoslovak leadership and the friendly Czechoslovak people.

The talks dealt with the international situation, the regional situation and developments, and bilateral relations in various fields.

Meets With Qaddah

JN262217 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, assistant secretary of the Reiongal Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, had earlier received Comrade Vasil Bilak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, and members of his accompanying delegation

Comrade Qaddah explained to the visiting delegation the latest and most important developments in the Middle East and asserted our country's principled and constant stand under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the Republic, in confronting the imperialist and Zionist schemes. He also stressed the importance of developing and enhancing the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPCZ and also between the two friendly states on all levels.

Comrade Vasil Bilak reiterated the CSSR's stand in support of our country's steadfastness under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He also renewed his country's support for the Palestinian people's just cause.

Comments on Talks

JN262200 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] In a statement to Syrian television Vasil Bilak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, said:

Good evening dear friends. I am pleased to greet you through Syrian television. I wish every success, good health, and happiness for your families. I am pleased to take this opportunity and share with you our impressions during our short visit to your heroic and beautiful country.

We held very useful talks with the friends and brothers in a cordial atmosphere. The talks were like those held among brothers and friends. The talks and the visit were crowned by a meeting with Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general and president of the SAR. The meeting was very useful and fruitful. We are satisfied with all these talks, during which we discussed a number of both countries' problems and interests. We also looked for ways to promote our cooperation and the existing relations between our two parties, countries, and peoples.

Bilak also said: We highly appreciate Syria's policy in the Middle East region. We view this policy as sound, principled, and very important. The CSSR fully supports this policy. Syria is playing a great and leading role in this region. Your struggle and heroic action deserve every admiration from all the honorable people in the world. You are waging a just struggle against the Israeli aggression, raising the banner of liberation and supporting every factor that can acheive peace and happiness in the Arab homeland.

Israel's aggression and its annihilation of the Palestinian Arab people should be condemned by the entire world. These actions and practices deserve condemnation by all honorable people. We know your role is not an easy one, but history has taught us that those who lead the march receive the blows. But despite this, they who lead the march know where they are going. You are serving a just cause and you deserve every respect and appreciation. We wish you steadfastness and success in this struggle and we assert that the Czechoslovak people and the peace-loving people in the world support you. Once again, I thank you for allowing me to speak over Syrian television.

Concludes Visit 27 Jan

JN271736 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] At noon today the party talks were completed between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, and the CPCZ delegation led by Comrade Vasil Bilak, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee.

The two sides reviewed the results of the first round of talks. They affirmed the need for holding direct contacts and joint consultations between the two parties' leaderships on the overall isues concerning the two parties and the two countries, Syria and the CSSR.

In the presence of both delegations' members, the agreement for cooperation between the two parties for 1988 and 1989 was signed.

Comrade Bilak and his accompanying delegation left Damascus for the CSSR after concluding a 4-day visit to Syria. He was seen off by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar.

Joint Communique Issued

JN272140 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] A joint communique on the talks between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation and the CPCZ delegation during a visit to Syria by Comrade Vasil Bilak, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, was issued in both Damascus and Prague today.

Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Ba'th Party secretary general and president of the SAR, received the CSSR official, who also held meetings and talks with Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, and a number of other Party and state officials.

The communique says the talks took place in an atmosphere of confidence and deep mutual understanding and stressed the two sides' concern about promoting the multi-faceted relations between the two countries on the basis of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1985.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the two friendly countries' identical views on the most important international issues. They also paid special attention to the tense situation in the Middle East, resulting from the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories and from the aggressive and expansionist policy being pursued by Israel and the United States as part of their strategic alliance.

This policy is aimed at spreading imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary hegemony over the region. Israel also refuses to implement UN resolutions and denies the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights—a fact which exposes security and peace in the Middle East and the world to the gravest dangers.

The two sides stressed that a just, overall, and lasting peace can be acheived only through a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and a recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people in accordance with UN resolutions.

They also voiced support for the idea of a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by the permanent Security Council member states and all parties concerned in order to reach a just and overall settlement of the Middle East issues. [Damascus SANA in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 27 January adds that the UN-sponsored international conference should "be attended by the permanent members of UN Security Council and all concerned parties, including the PLO."]

The communique expresses both sides' solidarity with the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied homeland, viewing it as new evidence of the Palestinian people's rejection of the Zionist occupation and its terrorist, racist, and settlement practices. They also voiced support for the struggle of the Lebanese people and their national forces against the Israeli occupation of parts of Lebanon. They stressed that any solution to Lebanon's domestic problems can be solved only through achieving a Lebanese national accord. The CSSR praised Syria's role in Lebanon and its importance in achieving Lebanon's national goals and restoring to normal the situation in Lebanon.

The two sides also expressed their concern over the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and called for the withdrawal of all foreign military fleets from the Gulf and for guarantees for the freedom of navigation for all countries. The communique also refers to the extreme importance of the Soviet-U.S. agreement to ban intermediate and short-range missiles. They stressed the importance of a swift endorsement of the agreement to give momentum to arms elimination and to clear the international atmosphere. They also asserted the need to destroy all nuclear weapons and end the arms race.

The two sides voiced support for the Soviet peace initiatives and affirmed the close connection between security and peace in Europe and security and peace in the Middle East.

The Ba'th Party praised the CSSR position on world peace and security issues and voiced support for proposals to establish a chemical and nuclear weapons-free zone in Central Europe. It also praised CSSR efforts to reduce the level of military confrontation and to entrench confidence among the region's countries.

The communique stresses support for national reconciliation in Afghanistan and the struggle of the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and their liberation forces against imperialism, Zionism, and racism. The two sides signed a new cooperation agreement between the Ba'th Party and the CPCZ for 1988-1989.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Break Government Siege Near Qandahar

BK280240 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have broken the siege by the Kabul administration's forces near Qandahar where some 1,500 mujahidin were besieged. They also destroyed 6 military posts, killed at least 8 Kabul administration soldiers, and captured 25 of them. In this operation a number of mujahidin were martyred and 10 were wounded.

The mujahidin damaged 15 military posts and 4 bases in the (Mohallajaj) area south of Qandahar. As a result of these operations, the way to Ghandak, another stronghold of the mujahidin, has been opened.

U.S. Aid Causes 'Continuation of Bloodshed'

LD281004 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 27, BAKHTAR—A BAKHTAR political commentator writes:

Ronald Reagan's recent speech in the U.S. Congress in which he emphasized on his administration's aid to the Afghan extremists is an explicit expression of Washington's ill-will towards the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Rendering aid to the extremists means continuation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan and in no way helps the Afghan people. The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR quoting U.S. political observers and experts on the situation around Afghanistan recently admitted that the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan requires a political solution through diplomatic and peaceful means. Military aid to the Afghan extremists could not help the solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

A glance to the pronouncements made by the U.S. authorities, indicates that what they say and what they do are widely apart.

In the conditions when the Republic of Afghanistan has announced the policy of national reconciliation and expresses its readiness for a coalition government with the opposite side and is willing to cooperate sincerely and with necessary flexibility for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan through the UN secretary general representative, the U.S. president's pronouncement is nothing but ill-will toward solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

[Words indistinct] whenever the hopeful prospects for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan emerged as a result of endeavors and attempts taken by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union [words indistinct] and its accomplices under [word indistinct] pretext have created obstacles before it.

The US, inspite the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation by Afghanistan and the honest efforts of the revolutionary state of Afghanistan for the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan has not responded positively to the peace call of Afghan people, but according to the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR has assisted the Afghan extremists 715 million dollars in 1987. This amount will be increased to one billion dollars in 1988.

The fact is that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have shown necessary flexibility for the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan. They have pledged that if the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan reach a positive result and interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan ceases, the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union will return to their peaceful country within 12 months and even sooner [word indistinct] this time frame.

Now, the world public could really judge that which forces honestly assist solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

La'eq Explains Decision To Open Khowst Highway

LD280905 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 27, BAKHTAR—"Old men, women and children were dying from hunger and the state was obliged to rescue them from that condition", said Sulayman La'eq, Politburo member of the PDPA Central Committee and minister of tribal and border affairs in an interview in connection with the state statement on the opening of Gardeyz-Khowst highway.

The highway was blocked since nine years by the extremist groupings from which the Khowst inhabitants and Zadran tribes suffered a lot socio-economically and politically. During that period, the state was providing the official organs and the people with necessary goods through airways which beared heavy expenses. But the extremists there were supplied by their foreign supporters with Stinger and Blowpipe missiles which did not exist in the army of neighbouring countries and in the countries of the region. A number of airplanes carrying passengers and goods to Khowst were shot down by using those missiles, La'eq said.

Pursuing the national reconciliation policy and being loyal to its proposals, the state did not want to resort to force as a first step. The matter was put at Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly held late November) before the people's deputies to be discussed and decided upon. The Loya Jirgah decided a local jirgah from Paktia, Paktika and Khowst chieftains be sent to get contact and find the

way of solution. The local jirgah adopted a resolution on its mission and informed the state when it found its efforts for peaceful solution in vain, La'eq added.

Thus, the state which was authorised by the local jirgah ordered the detachments of the Armed Forces to open the Gardeyz-Khowst highway and the caravans of goods reached one after another peacefully to Khowst grand district.

The state, he noted, wants to keep the garrisons of the Armed Forces at two extremes of the region. Some contingents have, perhaps, already left due to the state statement on forces' withdrawal from there.

"We are sure that Zadran people and those armed groups who had shown goodwill in opening the highway, can secure in cooperation the safety of the highway. Our demand is that the need for resorting to force should not rise for the second time".

Evaluating the role played by the Armed Forces, La'eq said they showed high discipline and bravery and with confidence and pride one can say that revolutionary army is not only a powerful one but it has reached its maturity as well.

The minister of tribal and border affairs said, "Our demand is to keep open the Gardeyz-Khowst highway jointly forever. Zadran people and those armed groups [which] showed goodwill can exchange their views with us and get solved all the problems by holding jirgahs. The Afghan revolution is ten years old and every tribal people should know that war gives nothing and nothing can be drawn from the war" La'eq added.

Amin Returns From Visit to Czechoslovakia
LD270937 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 26, BAKHTAR—A high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan led by Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan after paying an official visit to Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the Council of Ministers of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic returned home on Monday.

During its stay in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the delegation talked with Czechoslovak authorities about promotion of economic relations between the two countries and establishing of Afghan-Czechoslovak joint factories in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Soviet Assistance in Education Described
LD270943 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 25, BAKHTAR—Over eight thousand and five hundred Afghan students are busy learning in the Soviet Union in various vocational and professional areas, says a representative of Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education. Each year, he said, two hundred and fifty students go to the Soviet Union for work on their doctor's and master's degree in the institutes of higher studies, four hundred for study in technicums and three hundred and fifty for study in technical, vocational and workers schools.

The representative said: One thousand Afghan students have successfully completed their higher studies in various areas in the Soviet Union, this year. In 1980-1987 over five thousand young Afghan students returned to Afghanistan after acquiring professional skills in the Soviet Union. They are working in various institutions now.

The Soviet Union has largely helped the Republic of Afghanistan in strengthening the material pillars of teaching and scientific system and in acquiring professional and vocational skills.

Notable instances of Soviet assistance are the setting up of the Institute of Kabul Polytechnic, Kabul Auto Mechanics Technicum, the fuel and gas technicum of Mazar-e Sharif. These educational centers which have been erected with the Soviet aid, are equipped with most modern means with possibilities of learning for thousands of Afghan students.

Right now, over two hundred Soviet lecturers are on duty in the Institute of Kabul Polytechnic, Kabul Auto Mechanics, the fuel and gas technicum of Mazar-e Sharif and other educational institutes of the country.

Kabul, Provincial Airports Under Reconstruction
LD280939 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 27, BAKHTAR—To extend and improve aviation activities in Afghanistan, the repair and rehabilitation of capital and provincial airports have been undertaken.

A representative of the Ministry of Aviation of Afghanistan said in this connection that the repair of Qandahar Airport is going on. A guest house is being built there, and its water supply system has been improved.

Also, work is going on for the construction of Herat Airport guest house and its waiting room, the construction work of which has made an eighty percent progress.

The rehabilitation work of Khvajeh Ghar Airport in the north of Afghanistan has been completed by eighty five percent, and is expected to get completed by the end of March 1988, the representative added.

The extension section of Kabul International Airport has made a ninety five percent progress so far. Similarly, the reconstruction of the airports of the cities of Mazar-e

Sharif and Asadabad and Sheberghan and the aeroplane parking project of Kabul International Airport and the renewal of Meymaneh city airport are going on, he concluded.

Briefs

Kazakhstan Delegation Visit

The delegation of the Kazakh SSR, headed by Zheltikov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of this republic, met the governors of Qandahar, Zabol, and Oruzgan, today in the headquarters of the Council of Ministers. At the meeting, which took place in the presence of the deputy ministers of state for direct cooperation affairs at the Ministry of Construction Affairs, talks were held on direct cooperation between Qandahar, Zabol, and Oruzgan provinces and the oblasts of the Kazakhstan Republic, as well as the assistance of the Kazakhstan Republic to these provinces in 1988. [Text] [*Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Jan 88 LD*]

Tadzhik Aid to Badakhshan

Kabul, January 26, BAKHTAR—The Badakhshan Koey Province [placename as received] of the Tadzhik SSR will provide assistance to Badakhshan Province of the Republic of Afghanistan. Based on a protocol recently signed between the two provinces, 1,200 tons of wheat, 400 tons of rice, 700 tons of ekrle oil, 200 tons of food salt will be transferred to the Afghan side until the end of current year. Also, according to the protocol, the trade, economic and cultural relations between the two provinces will expand. The Soviet side will help Badakhshan Province of the Republic of Afghanistan with consumer and construction goods and educational equipment worth more than 71 thousand roubles. [Text] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 27 Jan 88 LD*]

India

Sri Lanka Wants To Begin Election Process

BK271616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Sri Lanka wants to begin the provincial electoral processes by March-April and complete it in about 2 months' time. This emerged at the end of a 3-day ministerial-level talks between India and Sri Lanka in New Delhi. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, called on President Jayewardene today and apprised him of the outcome of the talks. The defense minister, Mr Pant, also had an hour-long meeting with the Sri Lankan president. They discussed the role of the PKF [peacekeeping force] in the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said India and Sri Lanka have agreed on creation of conditions to ensure smooth elections for the provincial councils. The Sri Lankan side assured India that suggestions on laws about devolution of powers in the Eastern and Northern Provinces will be considered once the electoral processes got underway. The Sri Lankan Government has been told at the highest level that some of the provisions of the legislation do not meet the Tamil aspirations.

On the question of the draft treaty presented by Sri Lanka on relations between the two countries, the spokesman said India is examining it. The treaty would require further examination and discussion. The two sides also took up the question of return of Sri Lankan refugees to their homes. They agreed to work out an effective mechanism to ensure safe passage of refugees of all communities to their homes. Further discussions on this would be held at the official level.

About Sinhala colonization in the Eastern Province, which the Indian side took up in the light of the Tamil concern, the Sri Lankan side agreed to look into specific cases and initiate measures to ensure that the Tamil concern is assuaged.

Algerian Foreign Minister Holds Talks

LD271213 Algiers APS in English 1118 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] New Dehli, 27/1/88 (APS)—In the frame of the official visit paid in India by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi the Algero-Indian political talks are carried on in New Delhi under the respective chairmanship of both foreign affairs ministers. They examined matters of common interest as well as hot points in the world.

In this context the Western Sahara conflict in the light of the UN/OAU joint good offices were dealt with. Also the Middle East crisis was thoroughly examined by the Algerian and the Indian sides.

The uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the project of international conference on the Middle East as well as the recent (?proposals) made in that sense for a greater implication of the Security Council were deeply examined.

The situation in southern Africa was also dealt with by the Algerian and Indian sides. In this context, the functioning of the "Africa" fund was also assessed. Questions relating to disarmament were referrred to in the prospect of the holding in May of the third extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly devoted to this matter.

Besides, the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and risks of its extension were examined as well as the UN Secretary General action in conformity with the mandate given to him by the Security Council. It is worth recalling that Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi was audienced yesterday by Mr R. Venkataraman, president of the Republic of India.

Paper Chides Reagan's Policy on Pakistan

BK271145 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 18 Jan 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Thank You Reagan"]

[Text] Although India never had any illusion about the sweet U.S.-Pakistan relations, the way in which the U.S. President has lifted the restrictions imposed by the Symington and Solarz amendments in favor of Pakistan should remove all question from the minds of those who still wanted to give the "benefit of the doubt" to the United States that Reagan, in fact, would not refrain from patronizing Pakistan and that he would not play a divide and rule game in South Asia. The U.S. State Department's assessment is that it is imperative to extend assistance to Pakistan because of the immense U.S. concern for Pakistan's national security.

It is saying this now when it knows that a Philadelphia court has indicted Arshad Pervez, a Canadian citizen of Pakistani origin, for stealing nuclear technology for Pakistan last August. Under the Symington and Solarz legislation, no U.S. aid can be given to any country suspected of manufacturing nuclear weapons. It has been proved in the U.S. court itself that Arshad Pervez was sending nuclear technology to Pakistan. Recent reports from the FRG also confirm that Pakistan was receiving enriched uranium from there for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Under the pretext of promised high technology and a supercomputer for India, the United States wants to equate India with Pakistan.

The U.S. President can only lift restrictions imposed by the Symington and Solarz amendments with an assurance that the national security of the country in question is threatened. Now what will happen is that Pakistan will be able to get AWACS and Hawkeye aircraft along with many of the most modern and sophisticated weapons. The irony is that the lifting of the Symington-Solarz restrictions amounts to an admission that Pakistan either has nuclear weapons or is on the threshold of building one. Now the question arises as to whose national security is being threatened—India's or Pakistan's?

It is natural that President Reagan's decision has made the Pakistani authorities delirious. On the one hand, the Soviet Union has promised to leave Afghanistan, while on the other the Reagan certificate of good moral character has opened the doors for a continuing flow of record amounts of assistance. Pakistan may say that it neither possesses nuclear weapons, nor has the program to make one. However, so much evidence has come to light against such assertions that no sane country would believe what Pakistan says. Pakistan's top nuclear scientists have claimed in the past that Pakistan is only a screwdriver's turn away from making the bomb. Even before Arshad Pervez's arrest, another Pakistani had been arrested in the United States in 1984 for trying to steal banned nuclear materials.

Anyway, the CIA itself would be fully aware of Pakistan's nuclear program. Whatever assistance the United States may throw into India's bag, it is clear that the United States has special relations with Pakistan. Moreover, it is also evident that the United States is unhappy with India's natural leadership role in South Asia. Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan is a very good thing, but it is going to create new problems for India. A nuclear race is a dangerous exercise in which both rivals will be destroyed. But now India has to ponder whether to nip in the bud Pakistan's venomous designs before they are hatched or to strengthen its offensive capability and vigilance to such an extent that the ambiguous neighbor has no courage to cast an evil eye upon it. By lifting the Symington-Solarz restriction, Reagan has, perhaps, done India good. Now we have to think like adults.

Pro-Moscow Party Decides To Resume PRC Ties

BK280420 Hong Kong AFP in English 0407 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 28 (AFP)—The pro-Soviet Communist Party of India (CPI) has decided to reestablish relations with China, ending a 25-year freeze, CPI leader C. Rajeshwar Rao announced here.

A four-member CPI delegation will visit Beijing in the last week of March at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party, Mr Rajeshwar Rao said at a press conference here Wednesday.

The decision to resume ties was made by the CPI's Central Executive Committee, which met here on the weekend, he said.

Relations were broken off in 1962 following a border war between India and China.

The CPI has held the conflict responsible for a split in the Indian Communist movement into pro-Moscow and independent Marxist factions.

The breakaway and more powerful Communist Party of India-Marxist fronts leftist governments in three Indian states.

3 Killed in Amritsar District 27 Jan

BK271302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, three persons were shot dead by terrorists in different incidents in Amritsar District today. A schoolteacher was killed near Kuriwala village and a revenue official was gunned down in Mehma village. In the third incident, one person was shot dead in (Udhakay) village.

Iran

Foreign Ministry 'Positive' on Soviet Withdrawal

LD271743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry has described the realization of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan as a positive development toward eliminating the region's problems. As a reminder, he affirmed: The future government of Afghanistan should be formed independently, without foreign interference.

Pointing to recent reports on the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan before the year is out, he stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always maintained that the presence of Soviet militay forces, in addition to disregarding the incontestable rights of a Muslim nation and causing death, injury, and homelessness to a substantial section of that nation's population, has become a pretext for intervention and aggression in the region by the United States. He emphasized: On this basis, we consider the withdrawal of Soviet forces to be a positive development toward eliminating regional problems.

Commenting on recent developments in Afghanistan and the possibilities for forming a coalition government there, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: As a neighbor and Islamic state, we want Afghanistan to become an independent and nonaligned Islamic country. Therefore, we consider the Geneva talks to be contrary to the true principles of the people of Afghanistan and declare them to be fruitless.

Soviet Envoy Comments on Ties, Afghan Talks

LD271744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] On the eve of the 11th session of the joint commission on cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union, the Soviet ambassador in Tehran took part in a press, radio, and television interview. During this interview, Soviet Ambassador Gudev noted the desire for bilateral diplomatic and political relations to be strengthened along with economic ties. He added: During the past 18 months, the volume of bilateral trade has risen to twice the level of that in 1986. In this same direction, a delegation from the Soviet Union will arrive tomorrow in Tehran in order to participate in the 11th session of the joint cooperation commission.

He expressed his hope for an expansion of cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union in various areas. Commenting on the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, he asserted: The presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf does not help to find a solution. It makes matters worse and undermines UN Security Council Resolution 598, Clause 5.

With regard to the U.S. efforts to impose an arms embargo on Iran, the Soviet ambassador referred to the fact that in 1980, when imperialism was trying to enforce an economic embargo on Iran, the Soviet Union prevented that action. He stressed: We still follow this principled policy. In connection with the latest developments in the issue of Afghanistan, he stated: In February, the last round of negotiations will be held in Geneva with the participation of Afghan and Pakistani representatives. We hope that on this date an agreement for the withdrawal of forces will also be signed.

Iranian Role 'Welcome'

LD271854 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador to Tehran Vladimir Gudev explained Moscow's stance on Irano-Soviet relations, Persian Gulf crisis, Security Council resolution and the Afghan issue, at a press conference here today.

Gudev referring to Tehran-Moscow economic ties said the Soviet Union seeks to expand and strengthen relations with its southern neighbour Iran, because, he added, political relations without taking economic issues and trade exchanges into consideration cannot remain stable.

The two countries increased volume of bilateral trade exchanges to a certain extent during the last twelve months, said the Soviet ambassador adding, the increase in 1987 was two-fold as compared to the preceding year.

He noted that the two countries linked agreements in several fields including oil exploration in the southern Caspian Sea, establishment of a joint shipping line in the Caspian, resumption of Aeroflot flights to Tehran, developing Esfahan steel mills and construction and expansion of power generators in Iran.

On exchange of crude oil with refined oil products between Iran and the Soviet Union, Gudev said such cooperation would certainly help promote mutual ties because Iran needs oil products while the Soviets have vast facilities for refining oil in southern provinces bordering the Islamic Republic.

Elsewhere he commented on Moscow's stance toward the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and Persian Gulf isues, saying his country has called for an end to the Iraqi-imposed war through political means and that Soviet support for passing the resolution has been in this regard "on condition that such efforts do not harm the Islamic Republic of Iran."

U.S. intervention in the region is against Article Five of the resolution and only helps to highten the tension, said Gudev. The Soviet proposal for a multi-national force to maintain shipping security in the Persian Gulf faced with a vast but incoordinated reaction in the world, he said.

In response to a question as to how Soviet Union as Iraq's major arms supplier calls for an end to the war through negotiations, he merely said: "If I were not in Iran now, perhaps I would take the time to answer the question, but such propositions are not necessary at the moment."

When a reporter questioning the ambiguity of the Soviet position, asked why Moscow has not condemned the Iraqi aggression on Iran, the Soviet ambassador tried to be rather evasive and repeated that his country has called for an end to the war through political means since its very beginning.

On the Soviet stance towards the Palestinian uprising, Gudev said Moscow's position is completely clear in this regard because "we are opposed to Israel's aggressive measures."

On the Afghan issue he made it clear that Moscow is for withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan and opposes any foreign interference in that country. Talks between Pakistan and the Kabul Government are to be held in Geneva next month and Moscow believes that this would be the last round of the negotiations.

In conclusion Gudev referred to the role of the Islamic Republic in Afghanistan and stressed that if Iran takes part in Afghan talks and uses its influence for settlement of the issue, "we would welcome the measure, otherwise a special situation may emerge making the participation of all concerned sides except Iran not to the benefit of the Islamic Rpeublic."

Meanwhile, head of the economic section at the Soviet Embassy here Victor I. Barissov who was also at the press conference referred to Tehran-Moscow talks and announced that an expert Soviet delegation will arrive here Thursday to make preparations for the 11th joint economic commission meet of the two countries which is to be held in Moscow in the coming weeks.

Barissov said officials of the two countries are to discuss establishment of an alumina factory, exploration of color metals, expansion of steel mills and power generators as well as other fields of mutual interests in their talks.

He also disclosed that a Soviet supply ship is now anchored at the northern Iranian port of Anzali and will be despatched to a spot determined by the Iranian Oil Ministry, for oil exploration in the Caspian Sea. Preliminary works according to an already-linked accord should be completed in six months time, Barissov concluded.

Radio Views Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan
LD281332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1107 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] As the UN envoy in the region conducts his shuttle diplomacy, designed to bring about the necessary coordination on the eve of the next round of reconciliation talks on Afghanistan, which Soviet officials and the Kabul regime optimistically regard as the final round, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday described the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan as a positive step toward solving the problems of the area.

He remarked that Afghanistan's next government should be created without any form of foreign interference. When asked to comment on news reports concerning the pullout of Soviet forces from Afghanistan within the coming year, the spokesman noted: Since the start of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran has called for the speedy and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet forces. Those forces occupied Afghanistan in the winter of 1979-80. Clearly, the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan has done more than ignore the indisputable rights of a Muslim nation, and leave a considerable part of its people dead, injured, or homeless. It has also played a special role in the formation and implementation of U.S. imperialist aggression in the region.

By taking advantage of this opportunity, the United States used the manifest aggression by the occupying forces against the Islamic territory of Afghanistan as an excuse for its crimes in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon and the Indian subcontinent.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized: On this basis, we see the withdrawal of Soviet forces as a positive step in solving the problems of the region.

At the same time, political observers consider the occupation of Afghanistan as a historic mistake by the Kremlin; so much so that in the past 9 years, side by side with the steadfastness and resistance of the Afghan fighters and nation, the world public, as well as international organizations and assemblies, have unanimously condemned this act of aggression against the sovereignty of the Muslim Afghan nation. Ever since the occupation of their Islamic homeland, conducted as part of the conspiracy of spheres of influence by the arrogant powers, the Muslim Afghan nation has resisted the occupying forces. It was this Islamic struggle and the offering of more than a million martyrs on the path of freedom and independence that allowed the Afghan nation to unmask the true face of the occupiers on the international stage.

Meanwhile, on the eve of a new round of talks in Geneva on a solution to the Afghan problem, which have already run into problems due to the absence of any true representatives of the Afghan nation, Afghanistan's Muslim revolutionaries have rejected these discussions. Indeed, they stressed that they will continue the destiny-making war until the occupying forces withdraw from their country completely. They demand that Afghanistan become an independent and nonaligned Islamic state, and that the country's Muslim people be given the chance to establish a political system of their own choosing in line with their beliefs.

In fact, the formation of Afghanistan's next government is one of the domestic issues involving the Muslim Afghan nation. As such, it is undoubtedly and solely the responsibility of the mujahidin, the fighters, and the Muslim Afghan nation, which have continued their resistance to the occupying forces over the past 9 years. On this basis, Afghanistan's revolutionary and fighting Muslims have strongly condemned and rejected the Geneva talks due to the absence of the true representatives of the Afghan people on one hand, and the illegitimacy of the Kabul regime on the other.

For these reasons, Afghanistan's fighting groups have emphasized that any participation in the Geneva reconciliation talks over Afghanistan, nine rounds of which have ended in deadlock, would be tantamount to legitimizing those negotiations and the occupation of Afghanistan.

From the outset, and in the same context, the Islamic Republic of Iran has described the holding of these talks as contrary to its principles and has refused to participate in or recognize them. Rather, it has declared repeatedly that these talks are fruitless.

Nevertheless, if all the leaders of the mujahidin and the representatives of the Muslim Afghan nation are allowed to participate in the search for solutions acceptable to the Afghan people and to play a major role, the Islamic Republic would consider such a development as a positive step. At the same time, it should be admitted that the Muslim Afghan people should decide their own future. The Afghan people want their country to become an independent and nonaligned Islamic state, having friendly relations with all its neighbors and a government based on the will of its Muslim people.

Poland Releases 'Communique' on Velayati Visit
LD271945 Warsaw PAP in English 1817 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Warsaw, Jan, 27—Following is the text of the Polish-Iranian communique on the visit to Poland by Iran's foreign minister.

Between January 25 and 27, 1988, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati paid a return visit to Poland at the invitation from Poland's Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski.

'Ali Akbar Velayati was received by President of the Council of State Wojciech Jaruzelski.

The Iranian foreign minister was also received by Prime Minister Zbigniew Messner and Sejm (Polish Parliament) Speaker Roman Malinowski.

Minister Marian Orzechowski and Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held political talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here. During the talks they reviewed the Polish-Iranian relations and discussed prospects of their development. They also pointed to the existing possibilities and the need to further broaden them, also in the field of trade and cooperation in economy, science, culture, and information. The two came out in favour of conducting political dialogue on international and regional issues.

Minister Orzechowski appealed for an immediate stop to military operations between Iran and Iraq and for fulfilling the U.N. Security Council's Resolution No 598 of July 20, 1987.

Minister Velayati presented Iran's stand on this issue and on the military presence of the U.S. and other NATO states in the Persian Gulf.

The two ministers came out in favour of withdrawing foreign warships from the Gulf and replacing them with the U.N. naval forces, in tune with the proposal put forward earlier by the Soviet Union.

Poland and Iran supported the idea to convene an international conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the U.N.

The two ministers reaffirmed their support for the struggle of nations of the south of Africa against the apartheid system and for Namibia's full liberation.

They also discussed other key problems of the international situation that developed after the signing of the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the elimination of medium and short range nuclear missiles, and stressed the significance of disarmament initiatives, including the Jaruzelski Plan.

The Polish and Iranian foreign ministers decided to continue political dialogue between the two countries.

The Iranian foreign minister paid also a visit to Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Wladyslaw Gwiazda. The two discussed the areas of mutually beneficial cooperation at the present stage, and after the end of war in the Gulf.

Ministry Denies Communique Issued

LD281253 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman today described the visit to Warsaw by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati as "successful" but said no joint communique had been released at the end of the visit.

The spokesman, Morteza Sarmadi added that only a letter of understanding on Tehran-Warsaw political, economic, cultural, scientific and industrial cooperation had been signed by Velayati and Polish officials.

The Polish news agency had earlier reported the issuance of a joint communique between Iran and Poland.

Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Ends Visit

LD271516 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—Visiting Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Gyula Horn held the last round of talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Wednesday at the end of his four-day visit to Tehran.

In the meeting, Horn announced his country's keenness to expand its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said his visit aimed at preparing the ground for the upcoming visit to Tehran by the Hungarian Prime Minister Gyorgy Lazar.

The Hungarian official said that imperialist attempts to misportray the Islamic Republic before world public opinion are in vain and that every country has its own outlook.

Horn also re-extended an invitation to Iran's Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from Hungarian officials to visit Budapest.

In response, Besharati, outlining the Islamic Republic's stance on its relations with socialist countries, welcomed promotion of Tehran-Budapest ties.

The acting foreign minister commenting on the Iraqi-imposed war, said the war has been imposed on the Islamic Republic by the Iraqi regime and that Iran's Muslim people are determined to continue their sacred defence until punishment of the aggressor.

The Hungarian deputy foreign minister left here for Damascus, Syria Wednesday noon.

UN Representative Meets Perez de Cuellar

LD271456 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati met with U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar at the U.N. Headquarters Tuesday upon the latter's request and discussed with him the latest developments in the Iraqi-imposed war, said a Foreign Ministry report here Wednesday.

The report said Mahallati asked the U.N. chief to reflect Iran's just stance on his (Perez de Cuellar's) plan as well as obstacles created by the Iraqi regime in his way to the U.N. Security Council.

Mahallati also told Perez de Cuellar that the attitude of both Iran and Iraq towards the U.N. chief's plan should be regarded by the U.N. Security Council as a criterion in its decisions on the Iraqi-imposed war, according to the report.

Mahallati further said the Islamic Republic is always keen to exchange views with the U.N. chief on various aspects of the Iraqi-imposed war and Iraq's open opposition to such an exchange of views primarily proves the hypocrisy of the Baghdad regime's peace overtures before international organizations.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the U.N. secretary-general today, the Baghdad regime yet once again took a negative position on the continuation of Perez de Cuellar's efforts regarding the Iraqi imposed war, implying its rejection of his plan.

The publication of this letter might create serious difficulties for Iraq's supporters at the Security Council, say observers.

Lebanese Scholars Arrive for Islamic Conference

NC280808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] The first group of Islamic ulema, scholars, university lecturers, researchers, and philosophers arrived in Tehran this morning to attend the Sixth Islamic Ideology Conference.

Our correspondent reports that the group from Lebanon, which was invited to attend this conference, includes such dignitaries as Scholar Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, leader of the Lebanese Shi'ites; two combatant lecturers; one of Lebanon's mujahid ulema; and several other people.

These Lebanese guests were interviewed by our correspondent. They stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken a great mission by holding this conference. It has created a good opportunity for Islamic philosphers

and scholars to express their views on the issue of human rights in Islam and, at the same time, to become further acquainted with the thoughts of the Islamic revolution.

During this interview, Scholar Sayyid Husayn Fadlallah commented on the importance of studying how Islam views human rights, as well as its impact on the world's people and the thoughts of Muslims. Pointing out that Islam regards human rights from both an ideological and political dimension, he stated: During this conference, a study of human rights in Islam and the freedom of Muslims to express their Islamic and political stands will, to a certain extent, clarify for Muslims the reality of the solidarity between world arrogance and the reactionary Al-Saud regime in creating the Mecca tragedy. He added: Islam is a religion that builds a human and ensures his rights. This is a reality which world arrogance is trying to hide through false propaganda.

According to our correspondent's report, the Sixth Islamic Ideology Conference, whose theme is "A Study of Human Rights in Islam," will be attended by approximately 60 scholars, ulema, university lecturers, researchers, and philosophers from Islamic countries, as well as 450 scientific and cultural dignitaries from our country. The conference will be held from 12 to 14 Bahman [1 to 3 February] in Tehran's Esteqlal Hotel. Various groups of guests will be arriving in our country until 12 Bahman [1 February].

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 'Export' of Revolution

LD280930 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani says the ongoing uprising in Palestine is inspired by the Islamic revolution of Iran. He has also described as "very bitter for the Zionists" their admission that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories stems from 'Islamic fundamentalism' having its roots in Tehran. He said the raising of these issues by Israeli officials is "the greatest publicity for us."

The speaker's remarks came in a meeting with heads of the Majlis industries committee, Hoseyn Mahluchi and officials from the Heavy Industries Ministry and industrial managers here Wednesday.

Addressing the visitors, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said had efforts been made since the early days of the Iraqi imposed-war towards military self-sufficiency, by now all military needs of the country would have been produced domestically and imposition of an arms embargo would be meaningless.

Stressing the importance of military industries in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war, he said in future advanced industries is a must because Iran will not forego sovereignty of Islam and export of the Islamic revolution. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that it is a religious duty to strive towards liberation of the Muslims from the yokes of dependence.

Further on the Palestinian uprising and the Islamic nature of their movement, the Majlis speaker said if such atrocities as those committed by the Israelis had taken place elsewhere in the world, they would have occupied headlines as crimes beyond comprehension of human mind. But the Israelis consider these crimes as their policy, he said.

"The Palestinians are continuing their path...This is the same path we have initiated for the world. This is what we meant by the export of the revolution for the world to realise that this is the right path. Today, the world people have come to understand this and the wrath of Israel's masters and friends and of global Zionism towards us is for this very reason..."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said if incidents similar to what is happening in the occupied territories occur in Egypt tomorrow, "they would put the blame on us." The world is witnessing a wave of Islamic movements which will further escalate in the future, he said. "(The uprising in) Palestine will leave its impact," the speaker said.

Commentary Views Failure of Arms Ban in UN

LD271250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Political commentary: "The Admission of the U.S. Secretary of State Regarding the Defeat of the Reagan Administration in the Security Council"]

[Text] Simultaneously with numerous reports about the start of a reduction in the number of U.S. and European forces stationed in the Persian Gulf, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz clearly admitted in a speech to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the extensive efforts of the Reagan Administration to get a resolution passed that would impose an arms ban on the Islamic Republic of Iran have met with failure in effect. Ever since the approval of Resolution 598 by the Security Council, the Reagan Administration has concentrated all its efforts on the passing of a resolution that would impose an arms ban on Iran as the second phase of this approved resolution. However, opposition by some of the permanent members of the Security Council has forced the Reagan Administration to forego the passing of such a resolution, at least under the present conditions. This loss of hope does not mean that all these attempts have ended or that the discussion and investigation of such a measure by the permanent members of the Security Council has been given up. This issue may again be raised in the UN Security Council as a result of changes in regional conditions or new developments on the battlefronts.

In any case, the reasons for the failure of such efforts at present can be seen in a number of factors, the most important of which in the final analysis is connected with the revolutionary might and capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran. One of the anxieties of the opponents of such a resolution is that in view of the critical situation in the Persian Gulf region and the military power and strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the stationing of an international military force to implement that resolution could easily lead to a bloody clash which would quickly inflict considerable losses on those forces.

Furthermore, in view of the potential of the Islamic Republic of Iran to produce a considerable part of the weapons it requires, although a military ban might create some difficulties in the procurement of certain weapons, they could still not be certain that it would be impractical for the Islamic Republic of Iran to get what it needs bearing in mind the known situation of the black market. Meanwhile, all the permanent members of the Security Council know full well that the negative consequences of the defeat of such a measure would not be limited to Reagan's administration or its European allies, but that in fact, the shameful consequences of such a defeat would affect all the others as well. Also, those governments that claim to be defending the rights of the uprising nations and fighting against the expansionist policies of the Great Satan are strenuously trying to refrain from aligning themselves with London and Washington, especially since the victorious revolution of the Iranian nation—as a revolution which has spread its roots among other Muslim nations of the world—is on the other side of this contest and clash.

Despite the above points, it is not unlikely that the appearance of a basic and decisive change in the battlefronts would alter the present conditions. In any case, in spite of all the overt and covert conspiracies of world arrogance, the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to continue its battle until the achievement of final victory and the crushing of the aggressor. As has been proved in the course of experiences over the last few years, our path will not be affected by their resorting to conspiracies such as an arms ban, the dispatch of military forces to the Persian Gulf, or the imposition of economic pressures. Such measures will not change the iron will of the Iranian nation in the slightest.

Besharati Interviewed on Arms Embargo

LD271342 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Interview with 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, deputy minister of foreign affairs, by an unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The superpowers have recently stepped up their talk about imposing an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran. In your view, is such a plan possible, and if it is implemented, what will be the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Besharati] May God Almighty give all those who support the combatants a share of His blessings. Before answering your question about whether an arms embargo is possible, the effects it will have, and our stance in this respect, I would like to say something by way of an introduction. Let us look into the factors that have caused the United States to take a more seriously hostile position, to have more violent confrontations, and to embark on a more planned and organized opposition to us over this past year—although it should be remembered that it has had a hostile approach to us before, during, and after the revolution. One observes two primary factors and motives in the U.S. approach and stance adopted toward the Islamic revolution during the last year. One is the disgrace of Irangate. As our proud nation is aware, the United States felt then, as it does now, that any movement in the region is possible only with our say-so. Therefore, it tried to establish ties with us while maintaining its satanic ways and tricks. But our nation gave the United States a crushing and resounding reply that disgraced it thoroughly. In order to restore this lost honor, the United States is now trying to resort to ways that will attract the attention of its supporters and that of the region's reactionary countries.

The second factor is that of the most glorious and victorious "Karbala-5" operations. In the course of this immense operation, the back of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army was broken; the obstacles that the Iraqi regime had built around Basrah over 4 years were brought down in 10 days, and those strongholds were taken by the forces of Islam. In the wake of this operation, the United States sensed that the Iraqi regime was on the way out and that if we victoriously ended the war, this would be an expression of our views which, together with the strong bond that we would establish with the countries of the region, would block the way for U.S. influence there. It was then that we saw unprecedented steps being taken by the United States to create a poisonous atmosphere for us. This resulted in the ratification of Resolution 598. Following this resolution, the United States and its Western allies achieved a vast military presence in the region.

Next we had the embassy wars. Under ridiculous and distasteful pretexts, our embassies in Britain and France were treated as if they were under siege. At the same time, we witnessed the savage and cruel killing of our pilgrims in the secure mosques of God. All this can be analyzed in the same vein. Having ratified Resolution 598, the United States created a tense climate for us. With the war of the embassies, our embassies and ambassadors were questioned. The United States tried to create more restrictions on our combatants with its military presence. By killing our pilgrims, these Wahhabies violated the security of the two mosques and severed our links with the countries of the Persian Gulf region. After all this, they intended to embark on something more fundamental and basic.

This last week I was in the region and one of the heads of these countries told me that the United States is afraid of

being involved in confrontations with us. The United States does not have the ability to confront you because it is terrified. Here we can add another reason: taking delivery of a considerable number of complex and supermodern Stinger missiles. Once these missiles were put at the disposal of the combatants of Islam, the United States ordered its helicopters not to get close to Iranian positions. That was when we realized how useless aircraft carriers like "Midway," "Constellation," "Missouri," "Ranger," and the French aircraft carrier "Clemenceau" are. If the aircraft are proven to be useless, if they are ordered to keep away from our positions, then they are not effective. When these warships are ineffective, then the missile-launching frigates are ineffective as well. We have voiced our threats; we have said that if we are attacked, then the region will go up in flames. In that case, the interests of the United States and that of its supporters are one and the same.

Now, to go back to your question: Is an arms embargo possible or not? The United States has not learned its lesson from the defeats it has suffered in its dealings with the Islamic revolution. Therefore, the likelihood of creating an international climate against us that might result in an announcement by the Security Council of an arms embargo against us is quite high. But what effects has this arms embargo had on us so far [as heard], and what effects might it have in the future? I can tell you that it will not be very effective. Since the beginning of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, we have been subjected to an arms embargo. All the airplanes, helicopters, and other military equipment we have that were made in the West, mainly the United States, have been deprived of spare parts. The United States has already imposed an embargo on us. According to the famous saying, you cannot frighten a hungry man who has no food with the prospect of fasting. We are already under an arms embargo, so such an embargo will not have a major effect.

What will our position be? Now it is our turn. If the United States is to impose an arms embargo on us and forces its allies and the permanent members of the Security Council to do the same, then it would be a case of desperate measures. In that case, we will not care about the position taken by the countries of the region or what condition the region will be in. The rest of the region should be under embargo as well. We have repeatedly announced our clear position that the Persian Gulf should be safe either for all or for none. The Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Strait of Hormuz should be open either to all or to none. That is to say, an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic will be impossible unless it results in an embargo against the entire region. We have 2,500 km of coast, and the last word in the region will be uttered by us. If there is a movement against us in the region, then this will be made to involve others as well.

The United States is well aware of the position of our nation toward U.S. politicians and the White House. Whatever bad luck our people suffer, they blame it on the United States. Even if there is a spell of drought in this country, the United States is blamed for it. Any move in this region is against us. The people's anger against the United States is increasing. One day our nation may do something that the United States will never forget. God willing, we have decided to make the last year of Reagan's presidency the most bitter and most unsuccessful period in his political career. If they accept this eventuality, then we are prepared, too. All the complicated arms and equipment made by our defense industries for the Guards and the Army have not been made public yet. We have not yet put them on show and have not yet announced most of them. Most of the modern and supermodern weapons will be fired in future operations. That will be the announcement of their production. Then the region will witness events that will not be in anbody's interests, not even that of the United States and its allies. If they are prepared to impose arms embargo, very well, so are we.

Communique No 3,094 Issued on Gulf War Actions

LD271613 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted a cargo ship and an oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard, according to a military communique here Wednesday.

The 3094th communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman yesterday in support of the Navy.

On the battlfields Iran's Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions Tuesday, killing or wounding an undetermined number of enemy soldiers and inflicting heavy losses on them, it added.

Two Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Sumar and Nahr 'Anbar, western sectors, yesterday sustained several casualties and were forced to flee by heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

In Panjwin and west of Jofeyr, northwestern and southern sectors, Iranian artillery fire silenced the activities of Iraqi tank squadrons Tuesday, inflicting heavy losses on enemy tanks.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy emplacements of light and heavy weapons destroyed in parts of the western and southern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

Iranian artillery fire checked movement of Iraqi motorized and armoured units in Tib, Zobeydeh and Husayniyah, southern sectors, and enemy engineering operations in Nahr 'Anbar Tuesday, concluded the communique.

Prime Minister Musavi Chairs Cabinet Meeting

LD271024 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 27, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi chaired a Cabinet meeting here Wednesday and briefed the ministers on international and domestic affairs, and on his visit Tuesday to Sistan-Baluchestan Province of Iran.

Prime Minister Musavi stressed on the need to increase investment in the cultural and educational projects in the less privileged parts of the country.

Khamene'i Attends Police Graduation Ceremony

LD272123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] According to a report from our correspondent, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, joined a number of military and state personnel, as well as the families of police martyrs, in attending the graduation and swearing-in ceremonies for the 42d class of the Police Officer Training College today.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council recounted the duties of police officers in society, emphasizing that in addition to their law and order duties, they are also present at the fronts of the imposed war. He pointed to the duties of the people with regard to their approach to the police and asserted: People should have a great deal of respect for the police and regard them as sympathetic brothers and guardians of society.

Addressing the graduates, the president said: You graduates are all children of this revolution and will herald a better future for the country's police. You should try to be the greatest observers of law and order in society. The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council pointed to the military defeats of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf and stated: The withdrawal of Western forces from the Persian Gulf is a military and political withdrawal. The world should count this as having been due to the power and strength of the Iranian nation and should be well aware that this nation will not withdraw in any arena.

Commenting on the uprising of the Muslims of Palestine, he stated: Palestine is the scene of the courage of an oppressed and lonely nation. None of the world's powerful hands is beside them. They are victorious and this is a divine promise. Our correspondent's report noted that the units stationed at the training college then marched in front of the president. At the end of this ceremony, Mr Khamene'i visited an exhibition on police activities.

Praises 'Unity' With Army

LD281118 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 28 IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday praised the unity and coordination of military and law-enforcement forces saying that there is no power in the world capable of breaking down the will of a unified nation like that of Iran.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony of police officers here Wednesday, the head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) also said oppressive powers are retreating from the scene after witnessing the unity of the Iranian nation which he said is based on their faith.

The Iranian nation, he said, will continue its struggle under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. "We will advance in all scenes and will force the enemies to retreat," he stressed.

President Khamene'i said the Iranian nation will display its power at political, economic and cultural scenes and through gaining victory in the imposed war.

The president praised the police force as a revolutionary institution at the service of the Islamic revolution.

Prosecutor General Explains Khomeyni Edicts

PM251731 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Jan 88 pp 2-19

[Part one of a two-part interview with Prosecutor General Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Kho'iniha by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [KEYHAN] The imam's latest edicts and directives undoubtedly form one of our most significant tools to solve ideological problems. These edicts have proved to be important in terms of government regulations and punishments, the labor law, mining questions, and the government as primary ruler. Bearing the general spirit and historic impact of these edicts in mind, we must note the fact that there is some significance and context to the fact that these issues have been raised at this particular time. What do you see as the background to these edicts?

[Musavi Kho'iniha] [passage omitted] As far as the background to the imam's decrees is concerned, it must be said that before, during, and since the revolution, the imam has tried to identify the line of struggle by recognizing the main source of corruption and identifying it to society. In so doing, he has moved the people and the revolution in the direction of neutralizing the center of corruption.

One significant point is that throughout our fight, the imam has always stressed the "enemy" and the main axis of the struggle. Of course, there have been many interpretations of this, and the imam has always tried to direct the people's attention to the major front against the enemy. Time and again during this period, we have seen people or groups trying, deliberately or unwittingly, to pull the people in a different direction. [passage omitted]

We live in an Islamic country, and most of the time we think of the USSR as opposed to us ideologically, and as rather hostile. It is natural to think that, as the Soviet Union is godless, and denies God, as well as heaven, hell, and everything else, our animosity toward it will be greater than it is toward others. Under these circumstances, we see our primary historic mission as the fight against Marxists, communists, and their ideology. We saw the same thing in the old days with those who thought that, instead of fighting the shah, they should have fought Marxism in Iran. In that sort of atmosphere, the art of leadership lies in clearly defining the enemy, exposing the main enemy, and mobilizing the people to fight that enemy.

The imam continued this line of thought after the revolution as well, and kept up his emphasis on the United States as our main enemy. From then on, especially after the success of the Islamic revolution, there were movements which thought otherwise and tried to promote the idea that the main and far more dangerous enemy was the Soviet Union, or at least that both superpowers were our enemies to the same degree. They said we should devote the bulk of our energy to fighting the Eastern bloc and Marxists around the world. They claimed that we should focus on preventing attacks from that side, as those people were serious enemies of Islam and the Koran. They alleged that our forces should be divided into two equal parts to fight against East and West; in other words, that we must struggle against both sides.

From the time this line of thought appeared, against the imam's ideology, there were attempts to add the Soviet Union's name to every mention of the United States. I was suspicious of this idea, which I saw as part of a movement. Naturally, I admit that this is a dangerous thing to say. It allows deviant movements to formally condemn us as followers of the Eastern bloc and as communists, and to claim that our thinking is Marxist in nature. Such movements do exist, and we were not immune to insults during the occupation of the American spy den. If they lacked the courage to come right out and say that the occupation of the spy den was wrong, some of them were brave enough to claim that we had taken it over because we favored the Soviet Union. Clearly, had the imam not approved of the action, these charges would have gone so far that even those closest to us would have believed we were communists. [passage omitted]

It is true that the Soviet Union is a friend neither to us nor our revolution. There is no doubt about that. The imam has also said that the Soviet Union is worse than the United States, that Britain is worse than either of them, and that they are all worse than each other. None of these powers is friendly to Islam. However, the important thing today is to determine who we must mobilize against so as to ensure the success of this stage of the revolution. As I said before, this is where the art of leadership lies. [passage omitted]

We cannot fight against the entire world, East and West, at any given time. The imam has chosen one obstacle, and, if we manage to remove that one barrier from the revolution's path, the remaining steps will be much easier to take. Obviously, this has its consequences. When the imam raised the slogan of "struggle against the United States," there were those who came and placed the Soviet Union's name beside it. I will tell you what I feel were their reasons. Even if they did it unwittingly, the minimum effect of their action was to create unnecessary sensitivities in our society. [passage omitted]

You should recall that in recent years, the imam has had to defend those who came out in favor of supporting the poor and oppressed, and who, due to their views, were accused of thinking like Marxists. The imam has had to defend them by saying: I know these people, and they are not Marxists. He has criticized the fact that, as soon as someone says something in defense of the poor, he is immediately charged with being a Marxist.

There is another slogan that poses a serious danger to society. I believe that to prevent anti-American slogans from taking root in society, certain people created an ogre called "Marxism and communism" for the people. Thus, whenever anyone wanted to say anything against the United States, these people could claim that it favored the Soviet Union, and, as such, had to be stopped.

According to the ideology of the liberals, you can see how, in an Islamic society, and as a way of promoting their pro-American tendencies, they would claim we were close to and sympathetic toward the Soviet Union and that, were we to remove the United States 100 percent, we would fall into the lap of the communists. We would be forced to maintain ever-closer relations with them to prevent them from destroying us. In fact, they want to bring our society under the American umbrella in a way acceptable to Muslims.

I have said before that while the Marxist danger was real under the shah's regime, that has not been true since the revolution. Marxist thought grows where Islam does not, as was the case under the shah. At that time, Islam could not blossom due to the shah, so Marxist ideology was a major factor for our young people. However, in a country where Islam is permitted to show itself, there is no motivation for young people to become Marxists.

Due to fears of a shift toward communism in our country, every time an issue was raised or something was about to be said in favor of the poor, someone claimed the idea was Marxist. The Majlis wanted to approve a bill dealing with foreign trade in accordance with the Constitution, and that was said to be Marxist, as under the communist system the government is all-powerful and has everything under its control. It was said that, if foreign trade was nationalized, everything would come under government control and this would be a step toward a communist-type state. [passage omitted]

This was one of the issues that formed the background to the Imam's edict, but, obviously, there were others, as well. I mentioned this one because it is important to me. It was under circumstances such as these that we forgot some of our principles. After all, the imam's latest edict is not something he just thought of yesterday. He reached those decisions before the revolution, even before the movement began. This decree is nothing new to the imam, but it is new to our people. [passage omitted]

There are those who think the government should not have much of a role in society. They note that Islam has established rules for the lives of the people, and, if they want to trade with one another or have economic and social relations, those are things that concern them alone. It is not for the government to intervene, for example, when a girl and boy want to get married. What right does the government have to order blood tests? Why should the government intervene when the two parties agree?

That type of thinking sees the regime and the government as ordinary people. Just as, in the case of a marriage, a neighbor would have no right to come and ask for a blood test, so the government, too, supposedly has no right to do so. Just as people are allowed to travel within the country from Qom to Tehran, or from Qom to the southern ports or the Bazargan border, so the government has no right to curb the people's freedom, or to force them to have visas and passports or pay taxes if they want to go abroad or if someone wants to come into Iran from outside. These people regard the government as a single "person."

However, the government has duties and responsibilities, and it needs certain powers to carry them out. It must also set some limits and create order in society. There are thousands of things that must be done in the country, and the government must intervene. It must draft laws and, in accordance with their terms, punish those who break them.

The same line of thinking that fears we will go Marxist denies all these things, as well. It says that, if that is the case, our government will be like those of the communist countries, where everything is controlled by the state. [passage omitted]

Letting the people decide is a fine slogan, but, if they are left to decide, who will look after the rights of others? Those with the means and power, including the capitalists, the corrupt, the lackeys of the old regime, and those looters who have escaped but will return? Their words are very pretty on the surface, but in reality, that is what their kind of freedom means.

They claim that if someone has a house to rent, the government has no right to impose regulations. The landlord sets a price and, if the tenant wants it, he will take it; if not he will go elsewhere. The government should not get involved. The real meaning of this statement is that the landlord should be allowed to fix any price he wants and the tenant should be permitted to pay whatever he wants.

Those who believe this way feel that the government has no right to meddle in agreements reached between two parties. Domestic trade should be free, and people should be allowed to take out the entire wealth of the country to import anything they please. Beyond such illegal items as wine and so forth, they should be permitted to bring in any shoddy junk they want and sell it to the people at whatever price they want. If the government steps in and drafts a set of regulations to safeguard the nation's interests, this government power indicates that it is communist, as that is how communist governments behave.

In effect, the imam's latest edicts were an answer to this line of thinking. Obviously, when I say government I do not mean the cabinet but the entire Islamic regime. [passage omitted]

When the imam says "Islamic ruler," that does not refer to a single person in the cabinet, for instance. It means the entire regime of the Islamic Republic, which is responsible for running the country under the supervision of the jurisconsult. Under the rule of the jurisconsult, the government must organize the operation of the country. The government prepares bills, the Majlis approves them, and the executive branches carry them out. The judiciary intervenes when it must. We must not think that, just because the imam says the government can do something, the cabinet can impose laws on society tomorrow without a decision from the Majlis. Nor does it mean that the judiciary can do as it pleases. In fact, it means that the Islamic ruler, the imam, gives permission to the organizations mentioned in the Constitution to pass laws and regulations for society and to remove obstacles in the people's way.

Notes Impact of Decrees

PM261425 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
18 Jan 88 pp 16-19

[Second and final part of interview with Prosecutor General Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Kho'iniha by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Musavi Kho'iniha] As far as the imam's decree is concerned, and bearing in mind the vital needs of our society, the issues that have been

raised will no longer just be discussed. Our government needs a set of laws, and, as I have said in the past, it has had problems here. Either the government would not send a bill to the Majlis at all or, if it did, it might not be passed, as the Majlis might consider it contrary to Islamic principles. Even if the Majlis approved the law, it might be rejected by the Council of Guardians as being opposed to Islamic principles. While this was going on, the government needed those laws. From now on, the government will prepare bills and send them to the Majlis and the edict will solve the problems. [passage omitted]

One thing I have noticed in you and in our other brothers—this is what I have gathered, and I do not consider it healthy—is a tendency to say that all our foreign and domestic problems occurred because we lacked such guidance in the past. In other words, now that we have this guidance, our problems are over. If people have this impression, or if the mass media are presenting the matter this way, I think it should be corrected. If we have problems, it is not because edicts have been forgotten. If so, we could argue that the imam should have issued the present edicts 7 years ago, so we wouldn't have these problems today. No, that is not the case.

If we have a problem such as the war, it cannot be solved by an edict. We are faced with the reality of war, and there is no solution but to continue it until victory. One step back from this theory would mean the loss of everything we have gained in 8 years of war in terms of the defense of our dignity, our country, Islam, and our revolution. If the enemy manages to push us a single step back, he will come all the way. Thus, we are compelled to continue this war. It is not as if this decree will turn war into peace. We should not imagine that victory in the war was only waiting for this message or that, thanks to the message, we can win the war with one more push. Another example is the suggestion that any problems in our foreign policy can be traced to the absence of this decree.

That sort of propaganda makes people believe that all these problems will be solved in a year's time—that there will be no high prices, that hoarding will disappear, that narcotics will vanish, that shortages will be no more, that in OPEC we will be able to increase prices to a ceiling of $22 a barrel, and that in the United Nations we will manage to deal with Resolution 598. But that is not the case.

As for lawmaking, we had some problems that, for religious reasons, had been left in limbo. With this edict, those questions will be cleared up. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] In your opinion, what role should the mass media play in reference to the imam's decree?

[Musavi Kho'iniha] My request to the media is that they treat the imam's messages in a healthy way. I do not mean to imply that they are not doing so already, as I know that every member of the press is a follower of the imam, and would not go against him. However, a given press source may occasionally have its own special political view. When a message from the imam is issued, that source tries to fit the message to its own ideas. Then it moves along, the imam says something else, and it sees him contradicting it. [passage omitted]

Earth Tremor Shakes Deh Dasht 28 Jan

LD281002 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Yasuj, Bovir Ahmadi va-Kohkiluyeh Prov., Jan. 28, IRNA—A tremor measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale shook town of Deh Dasht at 05:06 hours local time (01:24 GMT) Thursday.

The geophysics center of Tehran University reported that the epicenter of the quake was 550 kms south of Tehran. No report is yet available on any probable damage.

Pakistan

Extension of UN Envoy's Visit Proposed

BK271552 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Pakistan has proposed to Diego Cordovez, the UN envoy on Afghanistan, that he extend his current visit to the region in an effort to help resolve outstanding issues before the finalization of proposed Geneva agreements. A Foreign Office spokesman made this statement after the talks between Cordovez and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani in Islamabad today. The spokesman reiterated that Pakistan will continue to extend full cooperation and support to the positive efforts Cordovez has been making for a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Pakistan is fully confident that the process of Geneva negotiations is an essential forum for a comprehensive settlement of the problem. Pakistan will remain firm, as usual, in its adherence to the drafts already agreed to at Geneva.

The spokesman said that the question of the formation of an interim government in Afghanistan, which is an indispensable requirement for ending war and establishing peace in that country, has been under consideration for a long time. The success of this process will depend on the participation of all the Afghan elements, including the Afghan mujahidin, refugees, and the present Kabul regime. In this connection, the Government of Pakistan has supported a bilateral perspective [as heard] to pave the way for an effective and workable solution to the Afghanistan problem, the spokesman added.

Junejo Questions India's Need for Nuclear Sub

BK271236 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to have good relations with India, but he has questioned the recent induction of

the nuclear submarine in the Indian Navy. He was addressing a meeting of the Central Council of the Pakistan Muslim League in Islamabad today. He said acquisition by India of the submarine, as well as other sophisticated arms, is a serious development. The prime minister pointed out that whenever Pakistan acquired weapons for its genuine defense needs, India made a hue and cry.

Pakistan would, however, never question any such acquisition by India for its genuine defense requirements. He posed the question as to which country represented a threat to India to justify its acquisition of a nuclear submarine. He called upon the superpowers not to provide equipment to India, which creates imbalance of power in the region.

Junejo Promises General Elections as Scheduled

BK230354 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has expressed his belief that the elected government will succeed in its endeavor to establish true and complete democracy in the country with the help of the people. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, who is also the president of the Pakistan Muslim League, made this statement in an address to a large gathering of party workers in Karachi last night. He affirmed that there is complete political freedom in the country and that political parties are fully free to introduce their programs to the people for the next elections.

He said that the [Pakistan] Muslim League believes in serving the people and that the present government's 3-year record provides a basis for optimism that the government will successfully meet the targets for development fixed under the five-point program of socioeconomic growth. The government wants to go to the people at the end of the current mandate with a record of good service. He expressed hope that the other political parties would also devote themselves to genuine issues and prepare for the elections, which will be held on schedule. The prime minister said that the successful completion of local body elections reflects the [Pakistan] Muslim League government's firm belief in complete democraqy. He asserted his belief that the only way to strengthen the roots of democracy in the country is the holding of regular elections at all levels.

The prime minister noted that the government is fully aware of its responsibilty to safeguard the lives, honor, and property of citizens. He reported that the law and order situation in the country in the recent past has been the government's focus of attention. Financial chief, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, also addressed the gathering and said the government wants democracy in the country to flourish to benefit the common man. Earlier, a prominent politician, Mr Mushir Ahmed Sheikh Imam, announced his decision to join Pakistan Muslim league along with his supporters and party workers. Sind Governor Ashraf tabani, NWFP Governor Fida Mohammad Khan, some federal and provincial ministers, and members of the Senate, National Assembly and provincial assemblies also joined the function.

Sri Lanka

Casualties Noted in Batticaloa Violence 26 Jan

BK271450 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 26 persons were killed in violent incidents in Batticaloa District yesterday. In Batticaloa town, a PKF [peacekeeping force] patrol party going to the railway station was ambushed, and as already reported, two PKF personnel were killed. Eight LTTE men perished when the PKF returned the fire. Citizens committee sources in Batticaloa told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that at least 10 civilians were killed in the cross-fire and 15 seriously injured. The removal of the injured to hospital was hampered because of the curfew which will be in force till tomorrow. The town is reported to be quiet today.

At Valachchenai in the district, the LTTE attacked a police station. One PKF personnel and five LTTE men were killed in the exchange of fire.

'Hardcore' PLOTE 'Terrorist' Captured

BK280757 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0728 GMT 28 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 28 (LANKA PUWATH)—An armed hardcore terrorist belonging to the PLOTE gang was captured by the Kotahena police in Colombo yesterday afternoon, when he grabbed Rs.110,000 from a Tamil woman who was on her way to the bank to deposit the money, officer-in-charge Kotahena police, Chief Inspector M. Tudor Dias, told LANKA PUWATH.

The terrorist was identified as Mohammed Nizar and had arrived from Mannar.

Chief Inspector Dias said the terrorist, armed with a pistol, had threatened the woman and grabbed the bag containing the money.

Two police constables attached to the Kotahena police, Heen Banda and Ajith Hemantha, who were on foot patrol at that time, had fleetingly seen the incident and when the suspect took to his heels they had given chase and captured the terrorist.

Investigations have revealed that the terrorist had undergone training in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu in 1985.